

**A  
BRIEF  
HISTORY  
OF  
NORTH  
DAKOTA**

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&  
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# A BRIEF HISTORY OF NORTH DAKOTA

BY

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FISH AND BLACK NORTH DAKOTA  
E. P. 7

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To  
MY MOTHER AND YOUR MOTHER;  
TO ALL PIONEER WOMEN WHO DID  
SO MUCH IN LAYING THE FOUNDA-  
TION OF OUR WESTERN STATES

## PREFACE

HISTORY is a narration of the success or failure of human lives and human actions. The deeds of the pioneer are alive to-day, and the ideals and aspirations of the men, women, and children who laid the foundations of this state are now realized. But it took courage and a great vision to come here when the state was needing people and was longing for just a few to settle on its wide rolling prairies. The black loneliness of the solitary shack was too much for many of the newcomers, but gradually those who stayed were cheered by others who came. The sod was subdued, towns grew, railroads were built, luxuries became necessities, government by the majority became a fact, and we grew into a state.

This book is offered to the interested students of our state history as a pathfinder, to serve as a guide and stimulus to further study of North Dakota history. It will tell briefly of those who helped build the foundations, and it will bring to young people a realization of the traditions of the past. It is impossible within the space of such a book to include all the events in the history of a state. In many places the brevity of the narrative may disappoint some readers, but as the story is written in textbook form, it is the hope of the authors that a reading of this book will encourage many to read further in the history of the state. The references cited are to books that are most likely to be within reach of the people.



There is a renewed interest in the history of North Dakota, and especially in the history of the early settlements and the old landmarks. It will be well if, through this interest, we can secure and preserve the narratives of those who helped to make our history. In this way the story of early days may be completed, and the events of recent years may be recorded with more definite certainty and accuracy. Much of our history is now in the memory of those who made it, and this book may be supplemented by the narrative and stories of many of our citizens. If the story as given in this book will help its readers to a better appreciation of their homes and inspire in them a love for their state, the aim of this book will be attained.

We owe a debt to many pioneers and to other lovers of the prairie land who have given us material, and who have persistently encouraged us to place this volume in the hands of the people of North Dakota.

THE AUTHORS.

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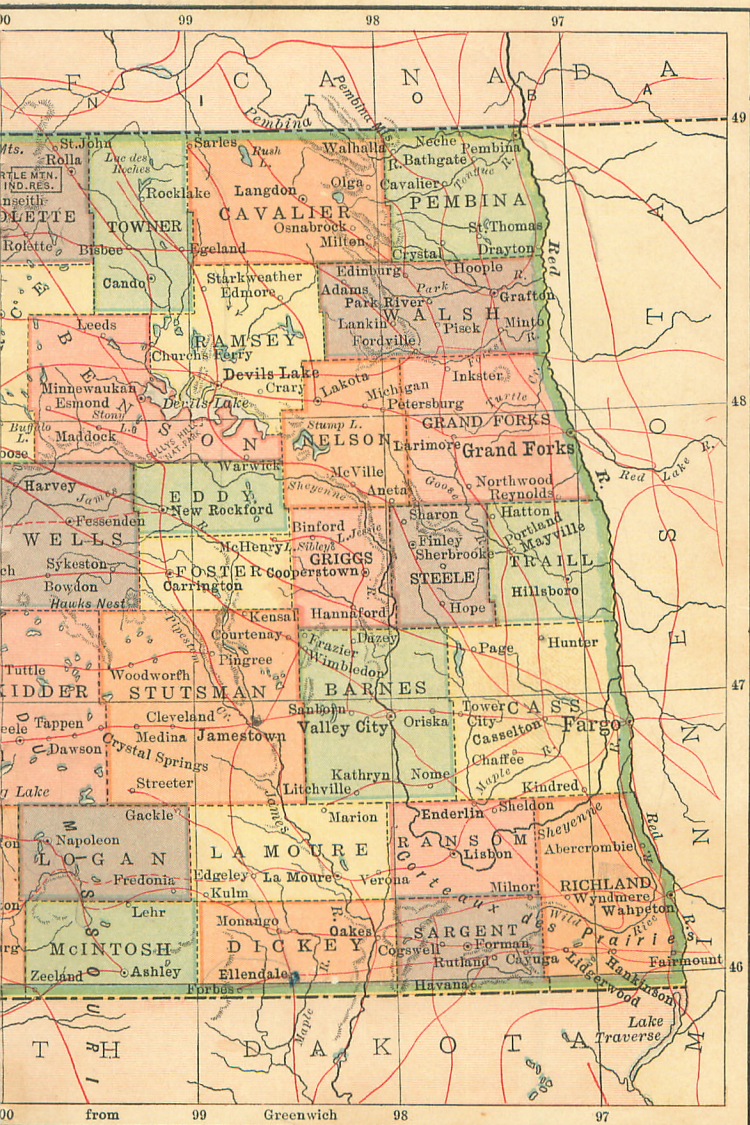
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# A BRIEF HISTORY OF NORTH DAKOTA

## CHAPTER I

### THE LAND AS WE SEE IT

IN the history of our nation and state the rivers and the valleys stand out prominently as great roads of travel for the incoming settlers. As Miss Semple has truly summed it up, "Rivers present lines of least resistance to the incoming colonist and afterwards lend themselves to his economic needs."<sup>1</sup> North Dakota was admirably adapted as a great center for the early voyageurs from the north, the south, and the east. Its rivers from the earliest time have presented a natural path to its fertile lands.

The Red River of the North has ever been a river of mystery for the thousands who hear the name. When its source is at flood tide its mouth is frozen in the Winnipeg country. The Red River of the North, now generally called simply the Red River, gets its name from Red Lake, Minnesota, whose shores have been stained by the blood of many an Indian war. The French and the English voyageurs used this highway from the north, and a few

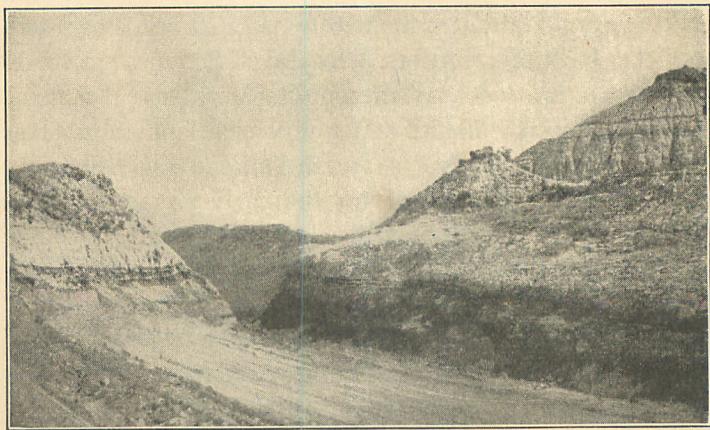
<sup>1</sup> Semple, *American History and Its Economic Conditions*.



used it from its source, coming in from the Mississippi River.

The Missouri River is the great highway to the broad western prairies of the state. Even to-day the Indian considers the "Big Muddy" as sacred. It has lent its treacherous waters to the coming of the people from the south. The promise of rich returns from the fur trade lured many to brave the dangers of navigating the Missouri. It was the natural road for the early Spanish, French, and English to North Dakota and to the Northwest.

The great area of the state may be divided into three



A TYPICAL BAD LANDS SCENE

types of landscape: first, the flat prairie, which is almost level and is poorly drained; second, the rolling prairie, which is cut up by hills and lakes; and third, a region of broad plains divided into river valleys and scattered

buttes. In this third region are found the Bad Lands with the flat-topped buttes of scoria and rock and clays, and the well drained valleys.

The first type of landscape includes those parts of the state covered for a time during the glacial period by a great ice sheet and by immense bodies of water. It includes the Red River valley, the Mouse River valley, a small section around Oakes, the eastern part of Dickey County, and most of Sargent and Ransom counties. The second great area includes most of the central portion between the Red River valley and the Missouri River valley with the exceptions named. The third great region lies west of the Missouri River and in other parts of the state known as the Bad Lands.

The flat prairies are fascinating, with their great sea of grass waving to the horizon on all sides. In the morning and evening the mirage stealthily comes up before the eye, showing lakes, rivers, and cities. In the early days this broad expanse was unbroken for miles, without a tree to break the force of the wind; but to-day thousands of



CATTLE ON A NORTH DAKOTA PRAIRIE



groves point out well developed farms and well stocked pastures.

The rolling land of the prairie country is more interesting to the average traveler. The hills beyond, the lakes nestling between, and the sudden appearance of a ranch or a well kept farm sheltered in a broad coulee make a varied and a striking picture. The old days saw these rolling prairies teeming with buffaloes, deer, antelopes, coyotes, wolves, and other game.

The Bad Lands of North Dakota are the picturesque landscape in the state. The geologists tell us that this great jumble of color and confused mass of rock was once the place of a great lignite bed which has been burned. After the fire, the storms and the wind helped nature soften the whole region, leaving it with the hundreds of colors that we see to-day. The Bad Lands are well drained and contain some valleys, which are used chiefly for grazing purposes. This section is intensely interesting to the geologist, the botanist, the artist, and to the traveler hunting for the unique.

North Dakota has approximately 71,000 square miles of land and water and a population of about 700,000. Her geographical position, almost exactly in the center of North America, has made her a progressive state along all lines; and the three great transcontinental railroads are bringing the best of all nations to her doors. The welding of this band of people into an Americanized unit is a great state problem. Through our efficient free school system the forty-three different nations represented here are gradually becoming a people imbued with our democratic principles.

## SUGGESTED TOPICS

1. What do you consider the most beautiful part of North Dakota?

2. Show on the map following page viii how the rivers of North Dakota helped to bring in the early travelers from the north and the south.

3. How could the French come in from the country to the southeast?

4. What is a voyageur? How does he differ from a pioneer?

5. Name all the nations represented in your school; in your community.

6. What type of landscape do you live in? What is the land best adapted for?

7. Compare the size of North Dakota with states in the East, the South, and the West.

8. How do we make Americans out of the immigrants who come into our state from other nations?

**References.**—Willard, *Story of the Prairies*; Reports of the Geological Survey of North Dakota; Upham, *Glacial Lake Agassiz*; any geography of North Dakota.



## CHAPTER II

### OUR FIVE INDIAN TRIBES

LONG before the white man visited our Dakota land the Indians were living along the streams and rivers in peace and security, raising their families, tilling the soil, and enjoying the chase. From relics discovered in the Indian mounds we learn of their life here, and from persistent traditions told around the camp fire we know that they inhabited this country many hundreds of years.

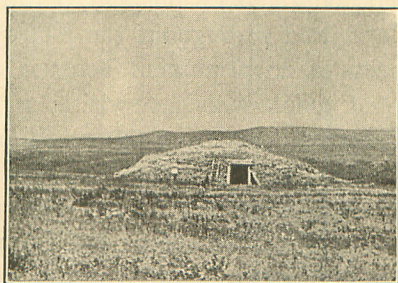
To-day there are five tribes in the state, numbering about 8000 Indians. These tribes speak different languages and are in many ways as distinct as the nationalities who at the present day live in the state.

The Sioux is the dominant tribe to-day and has been throughout the history of the Dakotas. As far as we know from records some of the Sioux nation have always lived along the Missouri River. In time, others came from Minnesota and Wisconsin and farther east. They did not live in permanent villages but wandered freely over the Northwest and at times went as far south as the Gulf of Mexico.

The Mandan, Gros Ventre or Hidatsa, and Arikara tribes, now living on the Berthold Reservation, have left remains of nearly eighty villages along the Missouri River from Grand River, South Dakota, to Fort Buford, North Dakota. Although these three tribes have lived together

for fifty years and have been near each other for five or six generations, each tribe speaks a different language, and for all official work they need a Gros Ventre and an Arikara interpreter. They are jealous of their old mother tongues and are slow to give them up for the white man's language. Nearly all of the young men speak English, but the middle aged and the old men and women cling tenaciously to the original languages.

These three tribes lived in permanent earth lodge villages. The earth lodges were from twenty-five to ninety feet in diameter and from fifteen to twenty feet high.



*Photo by Mr. Fish*

#### AN ARIKARA EARTH LODGE

They were three feet thick at the base and one foot at the top. They served at all times as a fort against the crude weapons of the olden days. When the villages were abandoned, the great supporting timbers which held up the roof and sides gave way, and to-day great rings of earth mark the first homes of these people. There are some village sites of three hundred earth lodges and other groups of ten or twelve lodges. From ten to fifteen people, sometimes two or three related families, lived in



each lodge. These tribes were generally at war with the Sioux.

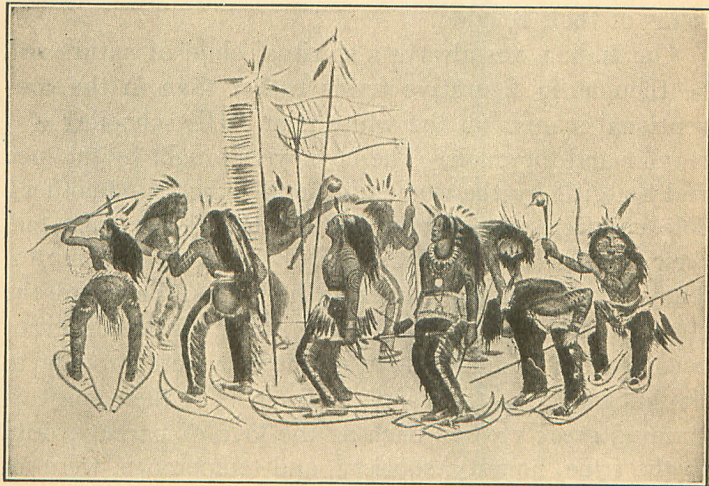
Tradition tells us that the Mandans came from the Atlantic coast as an offshoot of Siouan stock. Following an old Indian custom they bought their religious ceremonies from the Arikaras soon after this separation. They worked their way westward and towards the north until they came to the Missouri River valley. The old Mandan villages can be traced from the Grand River, South Dakota, to their home on the Berthold Reservation. Their most noted village is on the Fort Clark site. This was established many generations ago, before the time of Lewis and Clark, and throughout the history of the village it has been made prominent because of the great number of noted people who have visited it.

The Gros Ventres came from the north and east near Devils Lake. Later they met the Mandans on the Missouri River near the mouth of the Little Heart River. No one knows how long ago this was, but from tradition it must have been nearly two hundred years; and since that time they have been close friends. The mother village of the Gros Ventres is at the mouth of the Knife River, near Stanton. It is called "The Hidatsa Village." From this mother village Gros Ventre village sites are scattered out in all directions along the Knife and the Missouri rivers.

The Arikaras are of Pawnee stock and they came originally from the southwest in the Spanish country. When they moved north and east they struck the Missouri River and followed in the footsteps of the Mandans until they reached our state.

These three tribes who lived in permanent villages lived to a great extent from the tilling of the soil. They were in the heart of the corn country in the early days, and besides thousands of bushels of the squaw corn, they raised beans, squash, sunflower seeds, and tobacco. It is interesting for all of us to note that for the past two hundred years these products have flourished in North Dakota.

The Chippewa Indians, as great in number as the Sioux, live in the Turtle Mountains. They came from



INDIAN DANCE, FROM A PAINTING BY CATLIN

Minnesota and are woods Indians. Besides the five important tribes named, the Cheyennes once had a number of villages here, and to-day the ruins of Cheyenne villages near Lisbon and Fort Yates mark the destruction



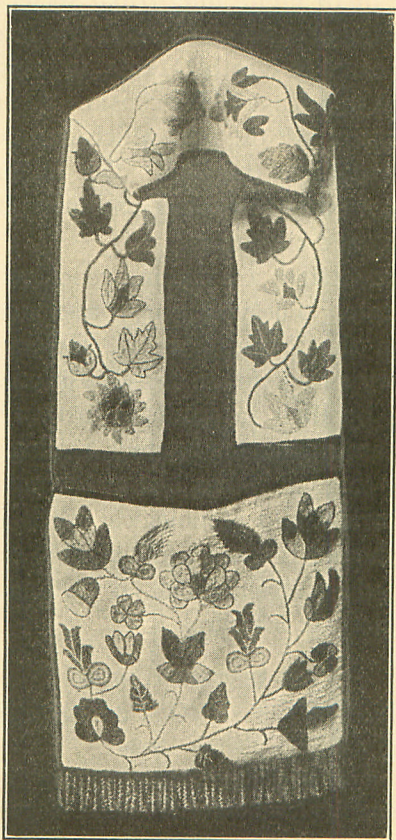
of a large population. The Assiniboin tribe also roamed over North Dakota plains and left traces of their life in the western and northwestern part of the state.

The political, religious, economic, industrial, and social life of the Indian tribes is complicated, and we should study each one separately, for each has some strong individual characteristic. Their art and music is interesting. The art strongly resembles the old Egyptian. They had no idea of perspective. The music is of the highest order and some of it closely approaches the classical. It ranges from the rollicking song of the masquerader to the sacred songs of their religion.

The Indian was always a spiritual child of nature and he thought in figurative terms rather than in the conventional manner of the white man. His schooling was regular and thorough. The boys were taught by the men and the girls by the women, generally the grandmothers. The children were taught the history of the tribe and their relation with other tribes, their songs, and myths. They were taught the names of the buttes, the rivers, the streams, and the coulees where some important event occurred; in fact all places of interest were brought to the knowledge of the young Indians. For their spiritual training great virtues, such as the love of parents, duty to the tribe, honesty, sobriety, and temperance, were instilled into their lives through example and precept.

The history of the tribe was preserved by the use of the Winter Count. After the tribe had become settled in their winter quarters the chief men gathered in council and decided upon the greatest event of the year which was to be the historical landmark pointing out all

other events. When this event was decided upon it was painted on their sacred robe and the event from that time



*Original owned by Mr. Black*

INDIAN BEADWORK—SIOUX CEREMONIAL

on told the history of that year and the camp of that winter. Some of the winter counts reach back to 1787.



The Indians have always been extensive travelers. They have been known to go a thousand miles to visit another tribe or to invite inter-tribal society brothers to a great gathering of a secret society. As late as the year 1898 Indians came to North Dakota, inviting brethren of different tribes to a feast in Wisconsin. At the time their leader temporarily lost the pipe which was the sacred emblem for the calling of the clan. The Indians also went far into new countries to explore and bring back trophies showing daring and adventure.

The five great tribes are making good law-abiding citizens of the state. The young men and women took an active part in the World War as soldiers and nurses. They were very successful in these positions, gaining the respect of all by their faithfulness to every trust given them. They are advancing in stock raising and farming and are ready to go ahead as fast as the government will permit. Historical and ethnological work is being carried on with the old Indians, and valuable results are obtained and filed at Washington, D. C., and in the State Historical Society at Bismarck.

#### SUGGESTED TOPICS

1. How did the living conditions of the American Indian promote health and a strong physical body?
2. Describe an earth lodge. How did the State Historical Society determine the location of the earth lodge villages of the different tribes?
3. Would the Winter Count be a good way to study and remember history?
4. Tell all of the ways men have used to find out about the old Indian life.

When the tribe had to go a long way for their annual buffalo hunt they cultivated their fields once or twice and left them until the new moon came, and then they flocked back to the feast of the new corn. But as a rule some of the tribe were near the plots all summer.

The gathering of the harvest was a happy time among the Indians. Some members of the tribe picked the corn and threw it into heaps. The next day the people gathered for the husking around a great fire. The unripe ears were the property of the person who found them. The corn was then braided and hung up to dry on the green corn scaffolds in front of the house. Seed ears for the next year had already been selected with great care.

After the corn was thoroughly dried it was stored away in a cache in the village. Most of the village sites are pitted with these caches, showing the immense crops of corn which were raised. Some of the corn was mixed with buffalo fat or buffalo meat and all pounded together in a mass which was called pemmican. The pemmican was often made more edible by mixing berries with the meat and corn. Then, too, the Indians parched some of the corn and mixed it with grease and rolled it into small balls. All of this prepared food was stored away for the winter or for the long journey. If the tribe were going into their winter village each cache was covered up carefully and a fire built over it to obliterate any signs of the place.

The cache was jug-shaped, from eight to twelve feet deep, and it contained from thirty to fifty bushels of corn. Many times it was lined with bark or some other dry material. The corncribs were on both the inside and the outside of the earth lodges.



Some of the corn the Indians raised was traded to the other tribes of the Northwest. When the goldenrod was yellow on the prairie the Indian tribes knew that the Mandan corn was ripe. Then they made their way slowly to the earth lodge Indians on the Missouri River and bought many thousand bushels of this corn for food and seed. The Indians came from great distances to get the corn.

Over a hundred years ago the Winnebagos and Menominees came from central Wisconsin and bought corn from the earth lodge people of the Missouri, and they show to-day some of the corn which is from the seed of the old strain. The Yakima Indians of central Washington still raise corn which is from the seed of the old Missouri variety brought to the Yakima valley before 1800. Southern Minnesota Indians relied on the Missouri Indians for their better grade of seed.

The agricultural life was a pleasant one for these people, and it was a sorry day when the Indian agent persuaded them that the Great Father would take care of them and feed them and discouraged the growing of crops. As soon as they lost their ambition for extensive farming the agent let them starve. But gradually the Indian is getting back his old-time love for the soil and he is developing a genius for farming, with the same perseverance which made him so successful when corn was king in the Missouri River valley.

#### SUGGESTED TOPICS

1. What other early travelers, besides Verendrye and Henry, speak of the cornfields of Dakota?
2. Describe the cornfields and the tools of the Indians of long ago.

3. Why was corn so important to the earth lodge villages?
4. Does our corn come from these early varieties raised by the Indians?
5. Name the different ways corn was prepared for food.
6. Did corn promote peace and good will between the different tribes?
7. Why did the Indians give up their agricultural life?

**References.**—Will and Hyde, *Corn Among the Indians of the Upper Missouri*; Catlin, *American Indians*; Maximilian, *Early Western Travels*, Vols. 22, 23, 24.

✓



## CHAPTER IV

### THE SPANISH, FRENCH, AND ENGLISH

It is interesting to know that the Spanish, who were among the first nations to explore the new world, came to the Dakota land and even penetrated as far north as the state of North Dakota. It is rather a dim tradition, but it is a very persistent one.

Spain based her claims to all of the Northwest upon the Coronado expedition of 1541 which advanced to the prairies of Kansas. This band of Spaniards were very much impressed with the soil of the country. The traditions of the healthful climate and the fertile soil were passed down to other generations and it was not long before the Spaniards of Mexico went up the "Big Muddy" to the Dakotas.

While the colonists on the New England coast were forming a permanent settlement in 1620, the men of Spain were trading with the Indians in the Dakota land. At that time all the Indians of the Northwest had a sacred trading ground between the Heart and the Cannonball rivers. Here, between these two rivers, the tribes gathered to barter goods and to exchange songs, religious ceremonies, and stories. They were safe as long as they were in this "city of refuge," but woe to the tribes who were at war after they had crossed the boundaries.

The Spaniards who were mining in Mexico needed

more help to work out the gold and the silver. So they sent traders to the Northwest, their horses laden with trinkets. These traders found that the Indians wanted the horse, which was an unknown animal to most of them. In the open market of the sacred trading grounds the Spaniards exchanged their horses for women, who were to become slaves of the men at the mines. It was an ancient custom for the Indian suitor to give a gift for the lady of his choice, and at first the Indians thought that the exchange of the horses for women was perfectly legitimate; but when they found that the maidens were enslaved they put a stop to that trade. Becoming suspicious of the Spanish, they soon stopped trading with them altogether. To-day beads and other relics are found showing the presence of these Spanish traders.

About the time Maryland was established as a colony the Spanish were driven out and the French were welcomed into the Northwest. As far as we know from authentic history the Spaniards did not return as a group, but there is a story that in 1720 they tried to claim the vast territory which had come to them through the early explorers. They had heard of the French encroachment on the upper Mississippi and the upper Missouri rivers, and they were determined to wrest the country from the invaders. So they fitted out an expedition against the upper river tribes who had allied themselves with the French. This caravan moved slowly into the north. Instead of uniting with friendly tribes they were falsely led to the Caddoan Indians on the upper Missouri and massacred. Although the Spanish had a nominal hold on the country for one hundred years longer



they did not try to use an armed force to rule it. By the treaty of 1819 the United States received from Spain a quit-claim deed to this section, which extended to the Pacific, and North Dakota was a part of the country included.

The Frenchmen were welcomed with open arms into our upper Missouri country, many of them coming in from the south and from the French settlements of Canada. The Sioux were pleased with them for they had plenty of weapons which spit fire. With these weapons the Sioux and the French soon conquered all the tribes along the Missouri.

The fur trade was turned over to the French, and because they could adapt themselves to the many conditions of the Indian camp and were willing to become allied with the great Indian families through marriage, they carried on a lucrative business.

The most important of the Frenchmen who came in from the north was Verendrye. In 1738 Verendrye, with his two sons and a party of forty, came in from the Great Lakes. They reached the Pembina and the Turtle Mountains, and turning south they rested near the present site of Minot, where they took their bearings, showing the exact location.

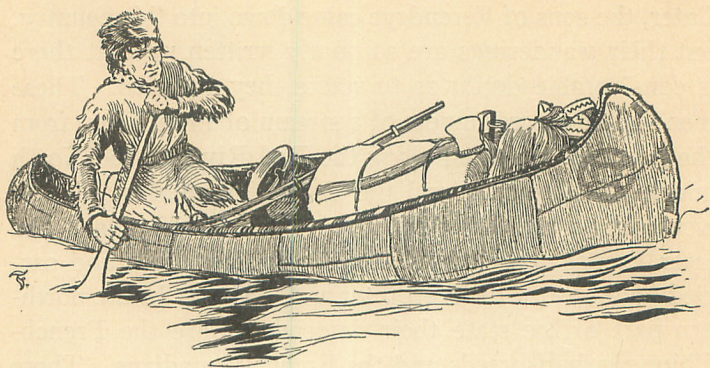
Soon after, Verendrye became ill near one of the Indian villages on the prairie. He stopped there while his two sons and the rest of the party went on to a great river which they declared flowed to the southwest, and in their minds it reached the Pacific, the goal of their search. They left men at this village on the Missouri to study the village life, and the rest of the party returned to Canada.

Later, the sons of Verendrye came down into this country, but their wanderings are so poorly written up that there is considerable doubt as to where they traveled. These men were the forerunners of a stream of Frenchmen from the north, who settled along the Red River of the North and in the Pembina and the Turtle Mountains. A few went out to the Missouri River to live and trade. The later Frenchmen married into the Indian tribes and carried on the work of interpreter and trader. In the northern part of the state their descendants are the French-Chippewa half-breeds and the French-Canadians. These people lived a precarious life, depending on a little farming, hunting, trapping, and trading. A priest came to the larger settlements and acted as their spiritual adviser, lawyer, teacher, and many times their business manager.

Frenchmen who came in from the south were the hunters and traders and the men who took the boats into the upper Missouri River country. As soon as they had made enough they settled down in some small community near St. Louis where they lived a long, quiet, and uneventful life.

About the time of the later Frenchmen a third nation made its appearance. In 1670 the Hudson's Bay Company was organized in England. The Scotch and the English controlled this company. According to their charter the company controlled all the land along all of the rivers and streams which flowed into Hudson Bay, and also all unoccupied lands. This included the Red River of the North as one of the tributary streams. Gradually the Englishman made his appearance in Canada





FUR TRADER

and drifted down into North Dakota, taking care of the Hudson's Bay Company forts along the rivers.

Lord Selkirk stayed during the winter of 1811 in the Pembina settlement. But his company did not make homes there, for the next spring they went up the Red River of the North and founded the Selkirk settlement.

The most important English settlement was at Pembina. One post was started in 1797 and another was held by Alexander Henry between the years 1801 and 1808. It was an important post during the early years of the nineteenth century, and at that time it was occupied by the English and by the French half-breeds. Gradually a considerable settlement grew up, for on August 8, 1823, Major Stephen H. Long, in his boundary line expedition, found three hundred and fifty inhabitants there. Later, Major Samuel Wood was at Pembina on August 1, 1849, for the United States government, and he found ten hundred and twenty-six people in the settlement.

Walhalla also had its trading post, with the usual half-breeds hanging around the place, and the Hudson's Bay Company traders carrying on a good traffic in furs. There were fur trading posts established as far down the Red River of the North as Fort Abercrombie. Tradition tells us also that there was an early post at Dog Den Buttes, which was the summer recuperating station for the sled dogs of winter travel. This was the extent of the English occupation.

Thus we can see how three great nations helped to build the state. The Spanish soon left the state with barely any trace of their occupation. The French and the English lingered on until now they have become real Americans with the other forty-three nationalities making their homes in the state.

#### SUGGESTED TOPICS

1. Point out on the map the paths of the different nations into our state.
2. What was the purpose of the different races who came into the state?
3. Learn from a United States history what was going on when these nations entered the Dakota land.
4. Are there any of these nations left in the state?
5. Tell something of the strength of the Hudson's Bay Company.

**References.**—Will, *Verendrye*; Collections of the State Historical Society of North Dakota; Hudson's Bay Company reports; histories of Canada.



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## CHAPTER V

### JEFFERSON'S DAY DREAM

THE question has often been asked, "Do day dreams come true?" And the answer comes back immediately, "Day dreams come true if we make them come true." Thomas Jefferson, our great expansionist, as a young man became much interested in knowing more about the vast region beyond the Allegheny Mountains, which served as a barrier and a boundary line for the colonies.

He had heard often from the pioneers and the soldiers of the great fertile Middle West with its unbounded resources. These men of the frontier knew of the mysterious region beyond the Mississippi, reaching up the Missouri River to the Pacific Ocean. Many strange and wonderful stories were told by the traders of the land beyond the borders.

Thomas Jefferson put his thoughts into action and wrote to General George Rogers Clark in 1783 asking him to lead an expedition into the region beyond the Mississippi River. General Clark had saved the Old Northwest—the land from the Ohio River to the Great Lakes—for the colonies, and there was no one as able as he to carry on the work of exploring the lands beyond the Mississippi. The proposition did not materialize, however; and it is not known whether it was because of lack of funds or because General Clark was too busy with his

military duties in the West, for Jefferson received no reply.

When Thomas Jefferson was minister to Paris in 1786 he met John Ledyard, an adventurer who had traveled with Captain James Cook on his world voyages. Jefferson encouraged him to explore the vast region beyond the Mississippi River. This proposition pleased Ledyard very much and he planned to travel through Russia, cross the Pacific, and go down through Alaska to the region beyond the headwaters of the Missouri. When he had nearly reached Kamchatka Port he was arrested as a spy because the Russians did not want him to learn about the rich fur land of Alaska. He was carried back to Poland, and the exploration came to naught.

Again, in 1790, Captain John Armstrong, a United States Army officer, was ordered to explore the Missouri River to the Pacific. Entirely alone in a canoe he started up the Missouri River and reached a point some distance above St. Louis. Traders and trappers who were coming down the Missouri from up country met him and told him about the Indian wars on the upper Missouri River and persuaded him that he could not make the trip, so he turned back to St. Louis.

When Thomas Jefferson became the Vice President of the American Philosophical Society at Philadelphia he met André Michaux, a French botanist who was collecting and studying the plant life in America. At once Jefferson's hope of exploring the unknown country was revived. He approached Michaux and the great botanist promised to help him. A private subscription was taken up and Michaux was sent to explore the shortest route



to the Pacific. But Michaux became involved in the intrigues of the French minister, Genet. His trip into the country beyond the setting sun was abandoned and Jefferson was again disappointed.

Thomas Jefferson became the third President of the United States. The day dream was before him as a cloud by day and a fire by night. There were many sailing vessels making Nootka Sound and the mouth of the Columbia every year. Traders of every nation were coming into the great Northwest. The manifold duties of the President did not blur his dream of a western empire.

On January 18th, 1803, President Jefferson sent a secret message to Congress which urged the importance of the country beyond the Mississippi and at the same time asked Congress to appropriate \$2500 to defray the expenses of an exploring party into that great region. Congress acquiesced. President Jefferson at once appointed his private secretary, Captain Meriwether Lewis, as head of the expedition. Captain Lewis asked Captain William Clark to join him in the work of organizing the men in the camp and equipping the party for the journey to the Pacific.

Both of these men had seen active service in the near west with the Indians, and, although Captain Lewis was only twenty-nine and Captain Clark thirty-three years old, yet they were both veterans in point of actual pioneer work.

In a long comprehensive letter President Jefferson outlined in detail the data he wished these men to gather. When we read their diaries to-day and notice the pains with which they enumerated the many phases of their trip

to the Pacific we appreciate the task which President Jefferson assigned them.

President Jefferson realized that his dream was at last coming true, and that his disappointment was at an end. The vast empire beyond the setting sun would soon be known to all the citizens of the new nation.

#### SUGGESTED TOPICS

1. Why did Jefferson take an interest in the Louisiana country?
2. Trace the journey of Ledyard.
3. Why did Jefferson keep the proposed expedition secret for a while?
4. Look up the letter of Jefferson to Lewis and Clark and tell what he wished these men to do.
5. What states are in the old Louisiana Purchase?

**References.**—Wheeler, *Lewis and Clark*; original journals of Lewis and Clark; life and writings of Jefferson.



## CHAPTER VI

### THE LEWIS AND CLARK EXPEDITION

ALL of the land which we know as the Louisiana territory had been in the hands of Spain since 1763. But in 1800 a treaty was signed by which Spain ceded Louisiana back to France. Napoleon thought he could make use of that vast territory to accomplish his world-wide ambitions. His plans for occupying Louisiana, however, were delayed largely because the army which he had sent to Haiti was destroyed by the swamps and fevers of that country and by the troops of Toussaint L'Ouverture.

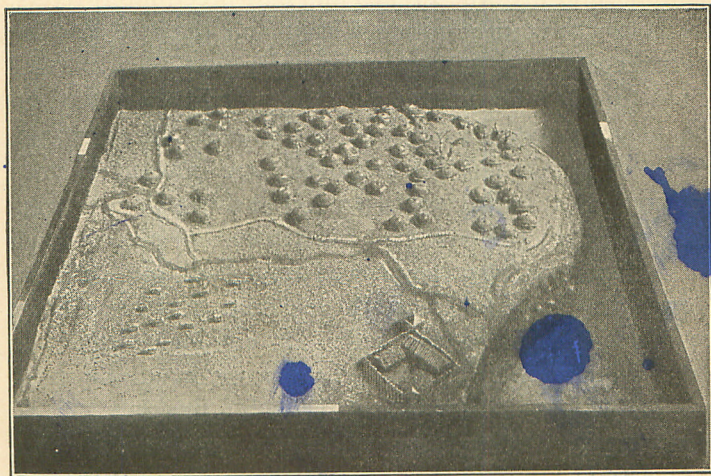
The plans of President Jefferson had been secret because the land to be explored was outside of the United States. And he knew that the United States might get into trouble if an exploring party should be sent there with the intention of spying out the land.

But before the preparations of Lewis and Clark were completed, the territory of Louisiana passed into the hands of the United States by a treaty with Napoleon, in which the United States agreed to pay \$15,000,000. This treaty was dated the thirtieth day of April, although not actually signed until May 2, 1803.

The congressional records for those years contain hundreds of pages of interesting reading, for many of the Congressmen did not have the vision of a great empire in the Northwest spanned by transcontinental railroads.

They spoke of the great distances which they had to go on horseback to attend Congress. Some of the Senators could not comprehend how a man could get to Washington on time if he had to travel either by horse or stage from the Oregon country. Others waxed eloquent when they spoke of the burning sands of the country west of the Mississippi and of the "arid wastes occupied by the savages, basking in the sun."

But there are a few in every generation who catch the vision of the future, and some saw with Jefferson the populous cities and peopled plains stretching far to the Oregon country. These carried the day for the Louisiana purchase. Then because of this purchase the Lewis and Clark party no longer needed to maintain the secrecy which they had kept to this time.



*Courtesy of the State Historical Society*

MODEL OF THE FORT CLARK MANDAN VILLAGE



Lewis and Clark picked many of their men from the hardy pioneers of the Middle West. They were all men who were ready to face the dangers of a new country and who reveled in physical strength and prowess.

The party went into their winter camp on the DuBois River across from St. Louis, on December 3, 1803. During the winter Lewis spent much of his time in St. Louis, learning from the voyageurs the route to the Mandan villages on the upper Missouri River. He carefully discussed with these men the details of the journey and the dangers which he had to face. Captain Clark stayed in camp organizing the men into military units and drilling them in preparation for the trip. He also had to collect stores and provide boats for the spring trip.

There were twenty-nine persons officially recognized on the rolls, and with the French and half-breed interpreters, the negro slave of Captain Clark, and the two leaders, there were forty-five men in the party.

On Monday, May 14, 1804, the expedition started on the long journey. They had three boats to carry the stores of goods up the Missouri: one bateau, or flat-bottomed boat, which carried a sail and twenty-two oars; and two small perioques, or open boats, of six or seven oars. Day after day they rowed and sailed and cordelled (towed the boats) against the current, over sand bars, and along the treacherous banks. It took men with strong backs and muscles of iron to press on in all kinds of weather and to make progress through a new land. Two men were detailed each day to bring in game for the camp.

On August 20, 1804, occurred the only death on the long trail. Sergeant Charles Floyd died near the present

site of Sioux City, and he was buried on the bluff with military honor. To-day a beautiful obelisk honors his memory and marks the historical spot.

In October, 1804, the party passed into our state, and on the 27th of that month they reached the Mandan Indian village at Fort Clark. A great council was held and words of friendship were spoken. On November 3 they started to build the cabins on Elm Point near Conklin, twelve miles above Washburn, on the east side of the river. Here the people of Washburn are planning to place a monument in memory of that historical winter of 1804-1805.

During the long winter both Lewis and Clark were collecting data on the journey to the Pacific and laying in supplies for the trip. The blacksmith of the party, who had found lignite coal to use in his blast, was kept busy making iron arrows and spear points from a sheet-iron stove that had been burned out. Each one of these points was traded to the Mandans for seven or eight gallons of corn. This corn helped the expedition on its way west.

When the spring came and the river was free from ice, the leaders sent a boat to St. Louis with relics and records of the journey to the Mandan villages. The rest of the party courageously turned their faces to the setting sun, ready for the toil in the unknown lands beyond the western horizons.

#### SUGGESTED TOPICS

1. Did the United States pay too much for the Louisiana country? Give reason.
2. What do we mean by "vision of the future"? Are there



men who have a vision of the future greatness of North Dakota?

3. What observations and studies were Lewis and Clark to make as they traveled across the country?

4. Mark the route of Lewis and Clark on the map.

**References.**—Wheeler, *Lewis and Clark*; original journals of Lewis and Clark; *The Louisiana Purchase* (a Government publication).

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## CHAPTER VII

### SAKAKAWEA, THE BIRD WOMAN

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THE trip of the explorers to their winter quarters near the Mandan villages had been comparatively easy, and it had not been particularly dangerous. But from their winter quarters west to the Pacific they had to make a new trail by way of the Bad Lands, over the dangerous foothills, and through the mountains. Who should guide them?

A leader came forth from one of the wandering tribes of the new Northwest. She was a girl of the tribe known as the Shoshones, or Snake Indians, who lived near the Three Forks of the Missouri River, about twenty-five miles northwest of Bozeman, Montana. During her early childhood the tribe wandered over the mountains to the ocean and back through the deep gulches into the foothills along the upper Missouri. One day, when this little girl was ten years old, her tribe had camped near the Three Forks. Suddenly a terrific war-cry was heard, and a war party of the Gros Ventres broke out of the underbrush and rushed upon the Shoshones. A number of the Shoshones were killed, but the Indian maid, with a playmate, was captured. The Gros Ventres did not kill the captives but hastily put them on their horses and sped toward the earth lodge cities of the Knife River. The playmate of our Shoshone maid soon escaped. But our



maid rode on and on into the enemies' country to meet her fate. She was "as one who never sleeps" on that long journey, and after many days she heard the song of triumph as the Gros Ventres rode into their city.<sup>1</sup>

There were feasting and dancing and singing and days of rejoicing for the victory over the Shoshones. These were very sad days for the maid, for she did not know when she would be sacrificed because of the death of a relative or friend. At last the great council decided to adopt her into the tribe. With this adoption she was given a new name, and they called her Sakakawea, which means "Bird Woman."

There were French traders and interpreters living in this village. One of these was Charbonneau. When Sakakawea was about sixteen years old Charbonneau gave a gift to her foster parents, and she became his third wife.

When Lewis and Clark reached their winter headquarters, the twenty-seventh of October, 1804, they at once inquired for an interpreter and they found Charbonneau. During the long winter Lewis and Clark became very well acquainted with their interpreter and his household, and especially with Sakakawea.

It must have been decided early in the winter that Sakakawea was to accompany them on the expedition west as a guide, for they were very much interested in her from the first meeting. The bargain was made with Charbonneau, who joined the expedition with his wife. On February 11, 1805, a son was born to Sakakawea. Before this child was two months old, April 7, 1805, the mother, with her child on her back, set out with the Lewis

<sup>1</sup> This village site is one mile north of Stanton, in Mercer County.

and Clark party. Those days when she never slept were now of value, for she remembered the trail back to the land of her people.

The Indian woman instinct asserted itself at all times; there was no wavering, no uncertainty. As the party drew nearer the old camping grounds her enthusiasm became infectious. She was always looking for a chance to help Lewis and Clark. One day when they had gone a long way up the Missouri River a great storm struck the fleet of boats and the party crowded into a coulee waiting for the rain to pass. The waters rushed down the coulee and filled the boats. Charbonneau stood looking on with fear, not knowing what to do; but Sakakawea, self-possessed, jumped into the water, and saved the valuable records and the scientific instruments which the party carried.

Perilous days of near starvation came to the party at times. Food was scarce and little game could be shot, but Sakakawea always knew what to do. Nature told her where the stores were, and she dug the yearah, the Indian turnip, and the arrow-head roots, and she found sunflower seeds and ground them. She knew where the berries grew and borrowed from the storehouses of the field mice. She gathered herbs for the sick and roots for healing. In these ways she furnished food and medicine for all.

The hunting grounds of the Shoshones were reached but they could not find the tribe. Day after day went by and it was only after a supreme effort of the two leaders that they located the camp. The first woman Sakakawea met was the one who had been captured with her but who had escaped. There was much rejoicing and weeping when they met.



The Shoshones prepared a great council for Lewis and Clark, and Sakakawea was present as interpreter. There across from her was the chief of the tribe whom she at once recognized as her own brother. Great tears of joy filled her eyes, but not until the faithful guide had crossed the council circle and had thrown her blanket over her brother did he show any emotion. This meeting was most fortunate. The explorers now were among friends, and so with the help of her brother, Chief Cameahwait, horses and food were provided and the westward journey to the Pacific was safely accomplished.

When the party was ready to return, Lewis and Clark left with the Indians a note which briefly stated their achievement, and which was to be delivered by the finder to President Jefferson. It so happened that a fleet of boats sailed up to this camp for water and found the message and delivered it to the President before the party had returned to St. Louis.

On the return trip Lewis and Clark asked Sakakawea to take them by the shortest route through the mountains to the plains of the Missouri. She remembered the trip her father had taken with the tribe when she was a small girl and took the party over the same route. The trail followed on the return journey is now being used by one of our transcontinental railroads and is the shortest route to the coast.

At last the party arrived at the Gros Ventre village, August 14, 1806. The long journey to the coast passed into history as a remarkable trip, but to our Indian woman it was merely an incident. The opportunity came to her and she made the most of it. In reality she helped to save

the Northwest for the United States. There was never a trail too long or solitary, nor any work too tiring, but this Indian guide went forward with patience and courage.



*Finney's Daily Photo Service*

STATUE OF SAKAKAWEA, AT BISMARCK

Charbonneau was given \$500 for his services as interpreter, but Sakakawea received only a letter of praise from the leaders of this great expedition.

On September 23, 1806, Lewis and Clark reached St. Louis, and in February they went on to Washington. Later, when Captain Clark was Governor of the Missouri Territory, Sakakawea visited him at St. Louis. She did not like the city life, and she returned with Charbonneau



to her adopted people. It is said that in time she left the Gros Ventres and went to live with her own tribe in Wyoming.

At Bismarck there is a bronze statue, designed by Crunelle, erected to the memory of this intrepid woman. The money for this monument was collected by the Federated Women's Clubs and the school children of the state. It is conceded by the Indian tribes to be the best representation in existence of an Indian woman.

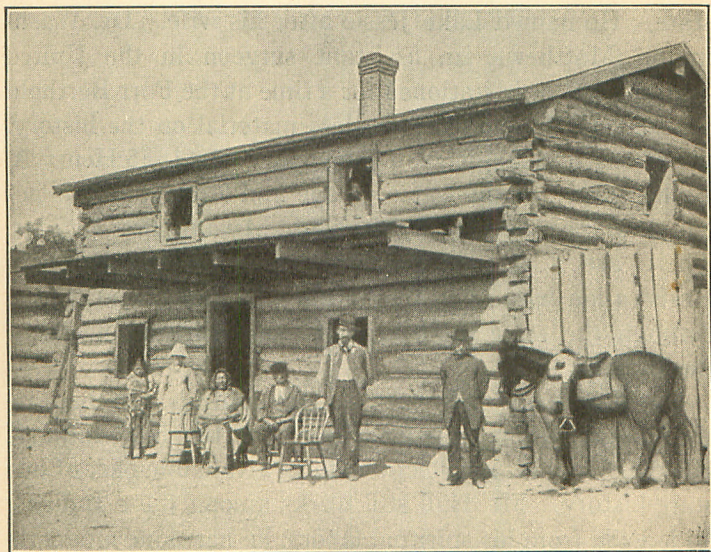
#### SUGGESTED TOPICS

1. Why was the route west of the Mandan villages so much more difficult than that before the villages were reached?
2. Where was the real home of Sakakawea?
3. What was the custom of naming Indian children?
4. In what ways did Sakakawea help the men on the expedition?
5. Do you consider the work of Sakakawea especially wonderful for a girl of sixteen?
6. What knowledge of nature must a person have to do the work of this Indian girl?

**References.**—Wheeler, *Lewis and Clark*; Schultz, *The Bird Woman*.

Contemporaneous with Lisa were a number of men who have become world-known through their early western travels. Although they did not accomplish any great material results on the northern route, they gave it publicity, and this helped in the development of the upper country.

John Bradbury, the English naturalist, and Henry M. Brackenridge, the writer, were both in the Dakota land in 1811. They have left their journals replete with valuable material for the scientist and the lover of travel. They also gained some notoriety during that year as peace-makers in the bitter quarrel between Lisa and Hunt.



*From an old photograph*

AN OLD LANDMARK AT FORT BERTHOLD



In 1832 the first steamboat up the Mississippi as far as the Yellowstone brought George Catlin to Fort Union (map, p. 78). For a generation after he was in our state the traders and the trappers talked about the sketches which he made on this trip. There are still living along the Missouri men who remember seeing some of the sketches he made on the walls of Fort Union. He made many famous paintings and drawings in the Fort Clark village.

Maximilian, the Prince of Wied, was a contemporary of Catlin. He had a Swiss artist with him who painted seventy scenes from the Mandan and the Gros Ventre villages. The writings of both men are very interesting.

Colonel John Frémont was also an early traveler in the state. He named Lake Jessie after his wife. Dr. Washington Matthews, an assistant surgeon in the United States Army, was stationed for a time at the Fort Berthold village. He has left us priceless material on the history, traditions, and language of the village. In 1858 Henry A. Boller stayed in this same village and left a valuable account of the people in his book, *Among the Indians*. There are a few of the old people on the Berthold Reservation who remember Father De Smet who passed through the state ministering to the spiritual needs of the Indians.

On May 9, 1876, Rev. C. L. Hall and his wife became the Congregational missionaries to the Berthold Indians. His diary and his recollections form a valuable part of our state history. Mr. Hall still works among these Indians, and, aside from his spiritual labors, he has done a notable work on his experimental farm which has been a good example for his people to follow.

There are many more who belong to this chapter. Time alone will put a just estimate upon their lives, and we shall recognize in them many qualities which have influenced the development of our state.

#### SUGGESTED TOPICS

1. What effect did the Lewis and Clark expedition have on the nation at large?
2. What real service did Lisa render to the United States during the War of 1812?
3. What did Lisa do for the Indians of the Upper Missouri?
4. Name other pioneers who are important in early Dakota history.
5. In what ways did the pioneer help in making a solid foundation for our state?

**References.**—Chittenden, *History of the Fur Trade in the Northwest*; Collections of the State Historical Society of North Dakota.

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## CHAPTER IX

### THE TWO YELLOWSTONE EXPEDITIONS

THE expedition of 1819-1820 was commonly known at that time as the "Yellowstone Expedition." It is interesting to us, not because it accomplished anything in a material way, but because it aroused enthusiasm and interest in western development. The romantic mind of the nation was ready for just such an event. The Lewis and Clark story had reached the remote corners of America, and its glowing account called forth another adventure of nation-wide interest. There were many who hoped that as Lewis and Clark had penetrated to the mouth of the Columbia, so this expedition would finally push on through the mountains and bring back a real *status quo ante bellum* condition, as was guaranteed by the Treaty of Ghent.<sup>1</sup>

There were other reasons for this expedition to the Yellowstone: The American people realized the failure of the Astor trading post at Astoria in the Oregon country; the returns from the Missouri Fur Company were a disappointment to many, and it finally proved to be a failure; the reports of Lisa showed that the British were strong at our very border. These reasons led Congress to consider means of protection for the frontier land.

Secretary of War Calhoun briefly stated the object of

<sup>1</sup> The Treaty of Ghent (1814) provided that all territory or possessions taken by either party during the war should be restored.

the expedition: "The expedition ordered to the mouth of the Yellowstone, or rather to the Mandan village, is a part of a system of measures which has for its object the protection of our northwestern frontier and the great extension of our fur trade."

To Major S. H. Long he wrote: "You will assume the command of the expedition to explore the country between the Mississippi and the Rocky Mountains. You will explore the Missouri and its principal branches; then, in succession, the Red River (of the North), Kansas, and Mississippi above the mouth of the Missouri."

President Monroe became very much interested in this enterprise and wrote to his Secretary of War: "The people of the whole western country take a deep interest in the success of the contemplated establishment at the mouth of the Yellowstone River. They look upon it as a measure better calculated to preserve the peace of the frontier, to secure to us the fur trade, and to break up the intercourse between the British traders and the Indians, than any other which has been taken by the government. I take very great interest in the success of the expedition and am willing to take great responsibility to ensure it."

The newspapers of the time, including the *Niles Register*, the *Missouri Gazette*, and the *St. Louis Enquirer*, all wrote in enthusiastic terms of this expedition to the west, and in favor of protection of our border against the British. They looked forward to the time when the states between the Mississippi and the Pacific would be included with the eastern states in one great federal republic.

The papers also stated in forceful terms their views concerning the fur trade brought to St. Louis: ". . .



The Northwest and the Hudson's Bay Companies will be shut out from the commerce of the Missouri and the Mississippi Indians; the American traders will penetrate in safety the recesses of the Rocky Mountains in search of its rich furs; a commerce yielding a million per annum will descend the Missouri; and the Indians, finding their wants supplied by the American traders, their domestic wars restrained by American policy, will learn to respect the American name. The name of the Yellowstone River will hereafter be familiar to the American ear."

From all parts of the United States letters were written praising the expedition. Many people believed that this expedition would "open a safe and easy communication to China." Thomas Benton wrote at St. Louis during 1819, "The rivers Columbia, Missouri, and Ohio form this line and open a channel to Asia, short, direct, safe, cheap, and exclusively American."

Public speakers lauded the enterprise and spoke with oratorical effect of the lure of the northwest coast; they saw in the expedition the opening of the great untraveled West, which would be the outlet for the goods of the East. People were thinking and talking of our Dakota land as part of the great trail to the Pacific. But the aroused nation, filled with enthusiasm, was doomed to disappointment. The machinery which was made to carry the great expedition into effect was found too unwieldy and complicated.

The military command was under Colonel Henry Atkinson and the scientific corps under Major S. H. Long. These men were assisted by eminent men who were to bring back expert results. The expedition started June,

1819. Colonel Atkinson knew that if he could have a number of keel boats they could reach the Mandan Indian country before winter, but the transportation officials ordered steamboats which they thought would take the party to their destination safely and easily. Steamboating was in its infancy, and these boats were not made for the Missouri traffic; so after floundering around all summer the company went into winter quarters at Council Bluffs. The costly equipment had eaten up the appropriation, and, although Congress was asked for more, the men of the east would not help an expedition so lacking in efficient management.

This failure left the question of the upper river unsettled. The Indian tribes which came in direct contact with the British were becoming unruly, and the outrages of the Arikaras at Grand River and of the Blackfeet on the upper waters in 1823 caused Congress to attempt once more to solve the problem of the upper country. In 1824 Congress passed a measure authorizing treaties to be made with all the Missouri tribes. President Adams appointed General Henry Atkinson of the Army and Major Benjamin O'Fallon, Indian Agent, as commissioners to visit and draw up treaties with the Indian tribes.

From first to last this second expedition was carried out in such a practical and sensible manner we are apt to compare it with the Lewis and Clark expedition. Atkinson and O'Fallon received their commissions late in 1824. They set to work at once and had everything ready by March 20, 1825, when they left St. Louis for Council Bluffs, the meeting place for the expedition.

Their equipment consisted of eight keel boats with their



sails, cordelles, poles, and a set of paddles worked by hand. The commissioners set out from Council Bluffs on May 14, 1825, with 476 men, of whom forty went on horseback, keeping within sight of the boats as they journeyed up stream.

The Indian tribes one after another were visited, and treaties were made, with what seemed to be a good spirit on both sides. But as the commissioners neared those tribes who had come under the British influence they found many of the Indians unruly. The Crows at the Mandan village became ugly and General Atkinson had to resort to arms to quiet them. Our Gros Ventres at the present time show a part of a sword which was left there by General Atkinson. The Indians talk with great respect of the work of this commission, and keep the traditions of the treaty council fresh by repeating them in the council halls to-day.

On August 16, 1825, the expedition reached the mouth of the Yellowstone, where they found game in abundance but no Indian tribes. While they were waiting for the Blackfeet, General Ashley and twenty-four men came down the river with one hundred packs of beaver. General Atkinson offered them friendship and protection down the river, and General Ashley accepted. While they waited the soldiers went up the river one hundred and twenty miles to look for the Blackfeet, but their search was unsuccessful.

On August 26, they started for St. Louis and arrived there October 20, 1825. This expedition was so unostentatious that it took some time before the people realized what had been accomplished on the upper waters.

In his report General Atkinson states that he made treaties with every tribe except two, and that a great friendship seemed to exist between the Indians and the United States government. He further stated that they did not need a military post on the upper Missouri, but if they established one it should be placed at the mouth of the Yellowstone. The historians concede that this expedition was a decided success.

#### SUGGESTED TOPICS

1. Discuss the importance of the Yellowstone expeditions.
2. How did they differ from the Lewis and Clark expedition?
3. What was the reason for the failure of the Long Expedition?
4. Why did not the Atkinson Expedition attract more attention at that time?
5. Do we have any expeditions going on at the present time?
6. Are there any localities yet to be routed and surveyed in any part of the state?

**References.**—*Early Western Travels*, edited by Thwaites; C. B. Burton, *Trail Makers*.



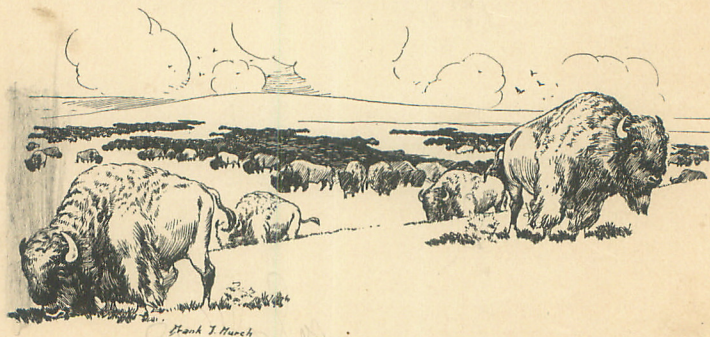
## CHAPTER X

### THE PEMBINA HUNT

ONE of the most picturesque scenes in our early history was the annual buffalo hunt, commonly known as the Pembina Hunt. This was carried on by the French-Canadian population with an intermingling of French-Canadian-Chippewa breeds.

The purpose of these hunts was to go out on the rolling prairies where the rich feeding grounds of the buffalo were and to bring in the meat for the year. These hunts extended from Pembina to Fort Union. The best hunting grounds were in the north central part of the state, with Velva as a center of this vast territory.

The hunts were an annual event, and in some years more than one trip was made out to the buffalo country. Men, women, and children joined the excursion into the



BUFFALOES ON THE WESTERN PLAINS

west, and to them it was one of the great events of their lives. With this great crowd of people the priest went along as an adviser, teacher, and spiritual leader.

Their mode of travel was in the old Red River cart, which was made wholly of wood, without any iron or steel. The great high wheels, running on wooden rims, ungreased, squeaked noisily through the country.

These hunting parties were like small cities traveling through a state. In 1820 there were 540 carts assembled; in 1825, 680 carts; in 1830, 820 carts; in 1835, 970 carts; and in 1840, 1210 carts went on the trip west. There were 1630 people in the 1840 hunt and a proportionate number in each of the other hunts.

The total cost of the 1840 trip is estimated at one hundred and twenty thousand dollars. The equipment of the trip is interesting. Each man had either an ox or a cart horse for his draft animal, and it was essential that each man should have a special horse for running the buffalo. The buffalo was considered one of the swiftest of all animals, and the best horses obtainable were used to run the beasts down. The party had to have knives, axes, guns, gun flints, powder, and balls, besides their tents and cooking utensils.

The Pembina hunt of 1840 started the middle of June. As soon as the great party had assembled they formed into a council and selected a chief for the trip. Ten captains were elected to carry out the commands of the chief. On this 1840 trip Jean Baptiste Wilkie, an English half-breed who had been brought up among the French, was selected as chief of the camp. Each captain had ten soldiers under his orders. The guides



were likewise appointed to guide the camp, each in his turn. The camp flag belonged to the guide of the day. The hoisting of the flag was the signal for raising camp, and this must be accomplished in thirty minutes. The flag set in the ground was the signal for pitching the tents.

When night came the vast camp formed a great circle with the thills of the carts turned inward. The stock and all the horses were placed within the circle, unless it was certain that there was no danger.

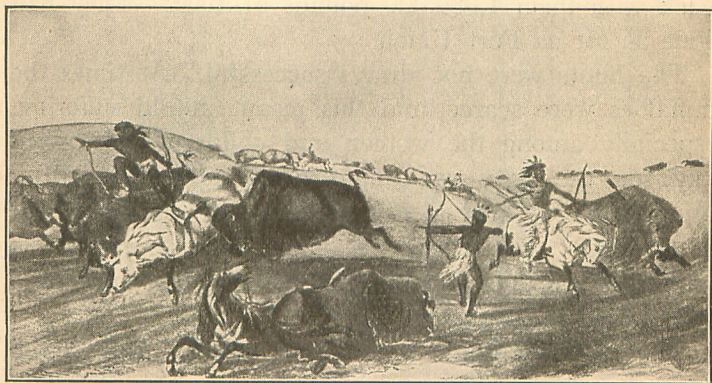
The council in session made certain laws which should guide the party. A few of them are as follows:

1. No buffaloes to be run on the Sabbath day.
2. No party to fork off, lag behind, or go before without permission.
3. No person or party to run buffaloes before the general orders.
4. Every captain with his men, in turn, to patrol the camp and keep guard.
5. For the first trespass against these laws the offender to have his saddle and bridle cut up.
6. For the second offense the coat to be taken off the offender's back and cut up.
7. For the third offense the offender to be flogged.
8. Any person convicted of theft, even to the value of a sinew, to be brought to the middle of the camp and the crier to call out his or her name three times, adding the word "Thief" each time.

Often, at the close of day, the officers joined in council on some high point of land. Each one of them had his gun at his side, his pipe in his mouth, with tobacco

bag handy, as they deliberately talked over the affairs of the day and the route for the following days. The priest often joined the council and offered prayer for the protection of the hunters.

The exciting time came when the camp sighted buffaloes grazing far away on the rolling prairie. At once the chief issued his orders for the chase. Then each rider on his swift horse dashed furiously towards the herd, mentally picking out the beast he wanted. Going at full speed, the hunters loaded their guns and fired at close



A BUFFALO HUNT, FROM A PAINTING BY CATLIN

range into the buffalo. Those who rode the swift horses brought down from ten to twelve buffaloes, while those on ordinary horses could not get over two or three.

The buffalo hunt was not without its dangers. Often when a buffalo was wounded he would plunge towards the horse and rider. The buffalo horses were trained to keep away from this danger. The horses sometimes fell over rocks or stepped into badger holes. There were



occasions when, in the excitement of loading and firing, the gun burst, wounding the hunter.

As the hunters rode out to the herd, the women, children, and the men without horses would slowly ride after them in the carts to gather up the meat. The hunters knew which animals they had killed, and riding back over the field they picked out the buffaloes they had brought down.

The half-breeds made tallow, pemmican, and dried meat from the buffalo. On the 1840 hunt the camp took back with them 1,089,000 pounds of meat. They had gone as far as Fort Union.

The hunts were not always successful. At times the buffaloes were scarce, and this meant untold suffering, especially among the women and children. Occasionally, too, the party was caught in storms, or delayed by prairie fires, or kept in camp because of the great heat of summer. But when the hunt was successful the hunter returned to Pembina, paid his debts, and for a while lived in plenty.

The Pembina hunts lasted until nearly 1870. Even now, the old trappers and hunters never tire of telling about the great hunts of the Pembina breeds who traveled out into the west after a harvest of food.

#### SUGGESTED TOPICS

1. What was the Quebec Act? Has that act anything to do with this chapter?
2. Where did the French-Canadian live? Why is he different from the British-Canadian?
3. What economic factor entered into the buffalo hunts?

4. Do you consider the council laws sufficient for so large a group?
5. Where may buffaloes now be found?
6. What use did the French-Canadians and the Indians make of the buffalo?
7. Describe French-Canadian buffalo hunters on the march and in camp.

**References.**—Collections of the State Historical Society of North Dakota; any history of Canada; Riggs, *Last Buffalo Hunt*, in *The Independent*, July 4, 1907.



## CHAPTER XI

### THE STEVENS SURVEY

THE Dakota land was many times a way station in the great westward travel and survey. It was in the most direct route to the Oregon country and in the path of the Asiatic trade which was visioned by many of our citizens in the East. The great event which was destined to bind together the states along the 49th parallel is known as the Stevens Survey.



ON THE WAY TO OREGON

The emigration from Europe was increasing rapidly, and the new citizens were moving towards the west central states. The movement to the Oregon country began

in the late thirties and increased to a marked degree during the first half of the next decade. The Oregon question aroused the interest of the American people on both sides of the Rockies, and there were many who thought in terms of routes and supplies.

The gold rush to California brought eighty thousand in one year. With the territory under our flag increased by the Treaty of 1846,<sup>1</sup> and the population in California becoming so large there was in the minds of many a possibility of a separate government on the shores of the Pacific. The dream of new states in the West brought to the attention of the army officers the fact that there was need of a shorter route to that part of the country.

During these two decades (1830-1850) the invention of farm machinery increased the ability of a man to farm larger areas, and at once men turned to the western prairies. With the cultivation of these broad acres arose the problem of shipping the products to the markets of the Atlantic and also to the Far East. Throughout the country there was a great desire to participate in the Asiatic trade, which could be carried on only with the aid of a transcontinental railroad.

The struggle between the North and the South was fast coming to a crisis, and already the statesmen were sensing the coming combat. The legislation became narrow. All these facts emphasized the need of bringing the United States together by some process, and especially of uniting the eastern and western people.

<sup>1</sup> The Treaty of 1846 ended the joint dominion of the United States and Great Britain over the Oregon country, providing for its division between Canada and the United States by a boundary on the parallel of 49° north latitude.



As far back as 1822 Representative Floyd of Virginia argued for a direct route of communication between the East and the West. His idea was to cover the whole distance by wagon and steamboat, which he estimated would take forty-four days. He expected the Americans to wrest the fur trade from the British and to start a trade with China. He spoke, too, of the whalers on the Pacific coast without a base of supplies or a port for trade.

The railroads of the United States had been in operation eight years when Levi Beardsley rose in the New York Senate and, speaking on a bill for the completion of the New York and Erie Railroad, said: "Is it extravagant to believe that before another thirty-six years expire we shall not only have an organized state beyond the Rocky Mountains but a steamboat and a railroad communication from St. Louis to the mouth of the Columbia?" He foresaw a direct route to the coast, traversed in twenty days, and beyond the mountains he saw the ships from the Far East entering our ports.

Many people were dreaming about plans for roads and railroads to the Pacific, but nothing was definitely presented until Asa Whitney brought forth his scheme of a railroad from the Great Lakes to the Pacific. This was presented to Congress, January 28, 1845, nearly eighteen months before the Oregon question was settled by the Treaty of 1846.

At first Whitney favored government ownership, but he foresaw such a course would lead to great political power, so he strongly urged private ownership and operation. He estimated that the total cost for this

railroad would be \$68,400,000. This vast sum was to be raised through land grants from the United States government. Eighteen states passed memorials favoring this great enterprise, but Congress was divided, and, after a lengthy discussion on a number of schemes, they decided that they should have a comprehensive survey of the different routes before they passed a measure for the building of the road.

In March, 1853, Congress passed a law which provided for the great Pacific railroad surveys. All promising routes were to be carefully surveyed and investigated. These included the routes of Lewis and Clark, Long, Frémont, and other early explorers. Four great routes were to be gone over at the same time. The Secretary of War was to direct the survey and decide on the best route to the Pacific. Jefferson Davis was the new Secretary of War under President Franklin Pierce. He favored the southern route.

It was at this time that Washington Territory was organized and President Pierce appointed General I. I. Stevens as its first governor. General Stevens was lieutenant of the engineers in the United States service, and he was known as a human dynamo in his ability to tackle a job and finish it satisfactorily. He asked for the position as leader of the northern survey. He felt that as an engineer he could do the work while he was on the way to take up his duties as governor of the new territory. He obtained the appointment and at once started to work.

Three divisions were to carry on the work of the survey. One party was to start at St. Louis and survey



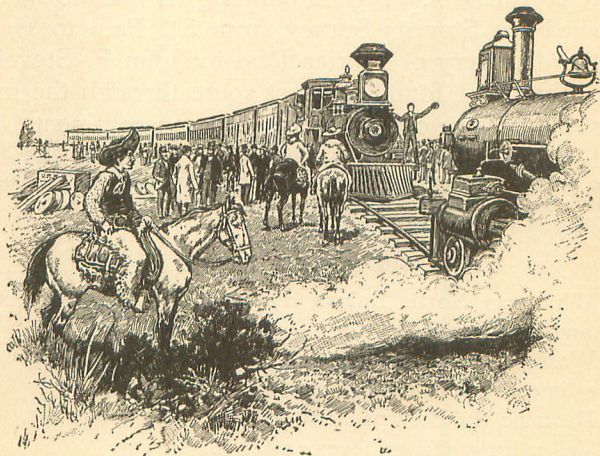
the Missouri to Fort Union; the main party was to meet at St. Paul and make their way west near the 48th parallel; and a division was to start in the west on Puget Sound and survey the Cascades and the newly formed territory.

The main division, led by General Stevens, had an able group of men. The force consisted of two hundred and forty men, including eleven officers, seventy-six enlisted men, thirty-three members of the scientific corps, and one hundred and twenty civilians. The party was well supplied with the latest instruments for a careful and accurate survey. They started from St. Paul in June, 1853, and continued due west to the Red River of the North over the old Red River Trail. They then continued northeast to the 48th parallel, following this line through Dakota to Fort Union, where they found the Missouri division waiting for them. (Map, page 78.)

Many of the old French half-breeds remember the party slowly winding their way over the prairies, and to-day they continue to wonder why parties were sent so far to both sides of the train of wagons. A path to the Rockies was explored thirty miles on each side of the train.

Nine passes through the Rockies were examined, and four in the Bitter Root Range. The east and the west divisions met at Fort Colville, in the northeastern part of Washington Territory. From Fort Colville General Stevens went to Olympia and became the first governor of that territory. In his report to Secretary Davis, General Stevens estimated the cost of a railroad through the Cadotte, or the Lewis Pass, at a little more than ninety

million dollars. In February, 1855, Secretary of War Davis made his report to Congress from the results of the surveys. He recommended the route along the 32d parallel as most practicable and economical. At once this created a division in Congress, and the legislators



TYPES OF RAILROAD LOCOMOTIVES USED IN THE 60'S

could not decide on any route because of the increasing feeling between the North and the South.

General Stevens had at last brought the East and the West together over the northern trail. His work was thorough, and the route became so well known that many poured into the Middle West, waiting for an opportunity to go on to the Pacific when transportation could be secured for the trip. His work laid the foundation for one of the routes used to-day as a thoroughfare to the Pacific. The Northern Pacific Railroad was



incorporated in 1864, and, although the Civil War stopped all building, the plans were gradually worked out in the early seventies, when General Whistler and General Stanley went out from Fort Rice to guard the surveying parties. It was left for a later railroad builder to see the possibilities of the route surveyed by Stevens. The Great Northern Railway in building its lines to the west followed the Stevens Survey from St. Paul to Helena. On the discovery of Marias Pass by John F. Stevens in 1889, this road found a direct route through the mountains and became our northernmost transcontinental line.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The Northern Pacific reached Fargo Jan. 1, 1872; it reached Bismarck in 1873. The Great Northern (then the St. Paul, Minneapolis & Manitoba Railway Company) reached Fargo in 1881, Grand Forks in 1879, and the Pacific Coast in 1893.

#### SUGGESTED TOPICS

1. Why was North Dakota a connecting link between the East and the West?
2. Were there a large number of people on the Pacific coast at the time of the Stevens Survey?
3. Describe the Stevens Survey.
4. Tell a little about Stevens after his survey.
5. Is this northern route the shortest distance to the Orient?
6. What benefit will the people of North Dakota reap from the commerce of the billion people around the rim of the Pacific?

**References.**—Hazard Stevens, *Life of I. I. Stevens*; Congressional Records.

## CHAPTER XII

### A NEW TERRITORY CREATED

WE have seen how the western country was explored and we have watched the scattering population take possession of the land. The story is now concerned with the ownership of the Dakota land up to the time Congress set it off as one of the territories of the United States.

The Louisiana Purchase was divided by Congress into the Territory of Orleans, now the state of Louisiana, and the District of Louisiana. In 1805 the District of Louisiana was made a territory, with a governor and three judges who were appointed by the President of the United States. Congress provided in 1812 that the Territory of Orleans should become the state of Louisiana and that the Territory of Louisiana should be called the Territory of Missouri. The greater part of North Dakota was included in this territory. The other part, or the part whose waters drained into Hudson Bay, was added to the United States, October 20, 1818, by the Convention of London. From that time until 1834 all of what is now the state of North Dakota was part of the Missouri Territory.

In 1834 Congress created the Territory of Michigan, and all of the land east of the Missouri River was in that new territory, while the part west of the Missouri River remained in Missouri Territory. Two years later



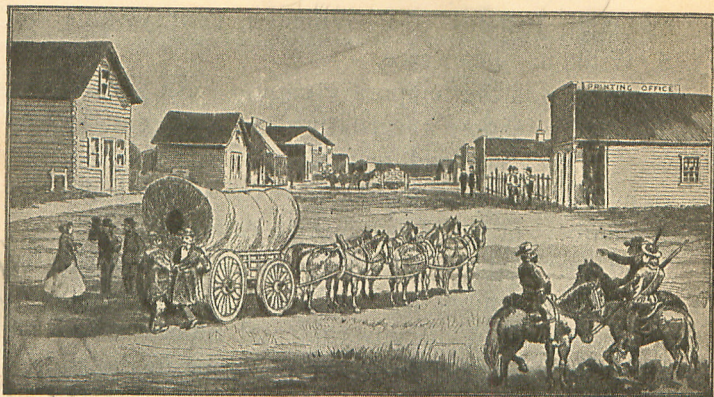
Michigan was given its present boundaries, and the remainder of the land east of the Missouri River was made into Wisconsin Territory.

Congress in 1838 gave to Wisconsin its present boundaries and created the Territory of Iowa out of the remainder of the region of which eastern North Dakota is a part. Iowa was admitted as a state in 1846 and left the remainder of the land to a new Minnesota Territory (created in 1849). All this time western North Dakota had remained part of Missouri Territory; but in 1854 a Nebraska Territory was created and the land west of the river became a part of that territory.

Minnesota was admitted as a state with its present boundaries in 1858, but no provision was made for the government of the remainder of the territory, between Minnesota and the Missouri River. During the time between 1858 and 1861 all of our state east of the Missouri was in no territory. West of the river was still Nebraska Territory.

The people east of the river held the reins of government and got along very well, and yet they were anxious to have a Dakota Territory. On the eighth of November, 1859, these men of "No Man's Land" drafted a memorial to Congress asking for a government. This was conveyed to Washington, D. C., by J. B. S. Todd. However, Congress had too much on its hands and the matter went by default.

The Dakota pioneers were not discouraged. Two days after Christmas, 1860, and on January 15, 1861, mass meetings were called, and 578 citizens of this territory sent a signed memorial to Congress. This was



FIRST CAPITAL OF DAKOTA TERRITORY

acted upon favorably, and on March 2, 1861, President Buchanan signed the bill which gave to Dakota a territorial government.

At first, the Dakota Territory was a vast country including the Dakotas, most of Montana, and a portion of Wyoming. The territory was too large, so it was reduced within two years to the present boundaries of the Dakotas.

President Lincoln had now taken his oath of office, and it became his duty to appoint the territorial officials. The following officers were the appointees:

Governor, William Jayne, Illinois.

Secretary, John Hutchinson, Minnesota.

United States Attorney, William E. Gleason, Maryland.

United States Marshal, William F. Schaffer.

Surveyor-General, George D. Hill, Michigan.

Chief Justice, Philemon Bliss, Ohio.



Associate Justices, S. P. Williston, Pennsylvania, and J. S. Williams, Tennessee.

Yankton was the temporary capital. An election was soon called to choose a legislature and a delegate to Congress. J. B. S. Todd was elected to Congress. On March 17, 1862, nine members of the Council and thirteen members of the House met at Yankton.

The Great Seal of the territory was selected at this first Legislative Assembly at Yankton. The importance of the Great Seal in all governmental affairs makes the story of its origin interesting to everyone in the state.

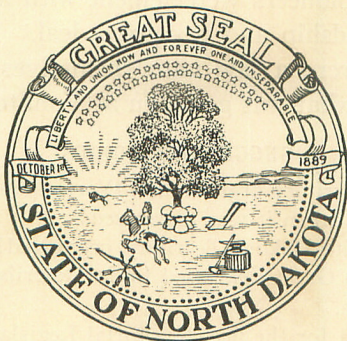
The House Journal for the first session has the following quotation for the forty-fifth day, Wednesday, April 30, 1862: "Mr. Puett offered the following resolution: Resolved that a committee of three be appointed by the chair to confer with the committee appointed on the part of the Council relative to a territorial seal. The chair appointed such committee, Messrs. Waldron, Donaldson, and Pinney."

The Council journals for this first session cannot be found, but we may infer that these two committees were busy preparing the Great Seal.

The second territorial Legislature met on December 1, 1862, and on the ninth day of the session the Council Journal records: "Mr. Shober introduced Council Bill No. 4: An act to establish a seal for the territory of Dakota. Read the first and second time and referred to the committee on territorial affairs."

This Council bill passed the next day, and when it went to the House it was passed without any opposition. The Governor signed the bill January 3, 1863.

Evidently the members of the Legislature were a little uncertain about the quotation from Webster's speech, for it is misquoted in the bill as it was passed. The description of the Great Seal is given in the bill: "A tree in the open field, the trunk of which is surrounded by a bundle of rods, bound with three bands; on the right, plow, anvil, sledge, rake, and fork; on the left, bow crossed with three arrows, Indian on horseback pursuing buffalo towards the setting sun; foliage of the tree arched by half a circle of thirteen stars, surrounded by the motto 'Liberty and Union Now and Forever One and Inseparable Now



THE GREAT SEAL OF NORTH DAKOTA

and Forever;' the words, 'Great Seal,' at the top; and at the bottom, 'Dakota Territory;' on the left, 'March 2;' the right, '1861.' The seal to be two inches and a half in diameter."

When North Dakota became a state the constitutional convention took up the debate on what should constitute the Great Seal. The quotation from Webster was discussed and corrected and the seal was changed just



enough to fit statehood, with a few minor changes in the center piece; the number of stars was made forty-two.

These first legislatures were concerned with laws for the pioneer, and they were also laying a strong foundation for the future security of the state. This foundation was made doubly secure by the great ideals of its founders. For the Dakota land had pioneers who came to stay and possess the land, in spite of hard knocks and disappointments, until a second generation, with better conditions and more money, could make the land blossom with well tilled farms and extensive pastures.

These first pioneers were lenient with all comers and preached friendship and a square deal. At first many communities were a law unto themselves, with a very vague idea of what was going on at Yankton.

#### SUGGESTED TOPICS

1. How is a territory organized? Were there many people in the Dakota land when it was organized?
2. Why was the Dakota Territory organized?
3. What is the Great Seal used for? Describe the Great Seal of North Dakota.
4. Was it hard for the first territorial Legislature to make up laws for these pioneer settlers? Give reasons.
5. Does a pioneer need many laws? What kinds of laws does he demand?

**References.**—Early legislative documents; Armstrong, *Early Empire Builders of the Great West* (a first hand view by a participant).

## CHAPTER XIII

### THE FRONTIER OF THE EAST

THE fifties saw a great change in Minnesota. There were a great many people moving from the other states into the rich valley of the Minnesota River. Far off Germany heard the call and sent many pioneers to New Ulm and its vicinity. These people from the states and from the far country came to cut down the forests, subdue the soil, and make permanent homes.

The general move into the upper valley was viewed with some misapprehension by the Sioux and the Chipewewa. These thousands of pioneers did not make much of an impression upon the great state of Minnesota; yet the Indian, with his keen vision into the future, could see the whole state turned over to the white man. He could see his own children driven from the fields and from the woods he loved so well, and he could see a foreign people occupying the land.

There were also misunderstandings between the two races which caused distrust. But it takes more than crowding and distrust to bring on a massacre such as Minnesota saw in 1862. The Man-in-the-Dark who can strike and steal away very often brings on a crisis.

The summer of 1862 saw a great camp of Indians gathered at the Yellow Medicine Agency to receive their annuities, the annual payments due them by agreements



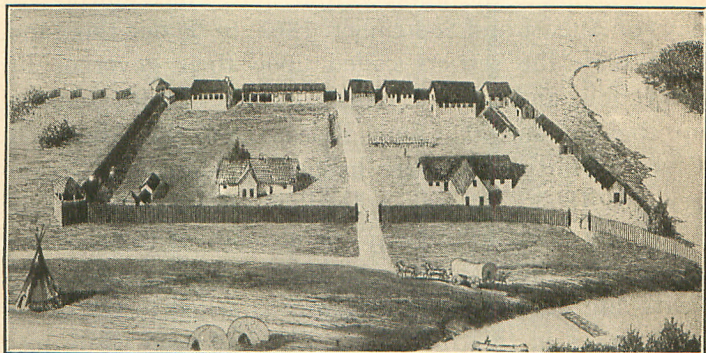
with the national government. They brought their wives and children along and they all seemed in the best of humor. But there was an unwelcome guest at the feast—a foreboding spirit, the Indian Trader. He was a Man-in-the-Dark who was in league with the agents of the government.

The Indian Trader had demanded a very large slice of the annuity for debts of the Indian. The remainder of this sum was to be paid in gold according to their treaty. At last \$72,000 in greenbacks were brought for the Indians, but they would not receive this and demanded gold. The men in power had tried to palm this money off on the Indian, for they knew the value of gold during the great war which was raging in the South. But they took the money back to St. Paul to exchange it for the gold promised by the treaty.

The Indians and their families were starving, although they knew that the storehouses were full of food; and they were sure that the white man was keeping that food from them in order to force them to take the paper money instead of gold. After a while the Indians began to move away so that their families could get something to eat on the prairie. Some of the Indians knew that the North was having reverses, and they saw their chance to drive out the settlers. The massacre began.

Many citizens of North Dakota who had relatives and friends living in Minnesota during those trying days find places in history which sound very familiar. The Red Wood Agency, Fort Ridgely, New Ulm, Birch Coulee, and Wood Lake are all names which can never die in Minnesota history.

Our own state tasted the bitterness of this massacre. The Indians attacked Fort Abercrombie on September 3, 1862, but under the efficient command of Captain John H. Vander Horck the Indians were repulsed. They



FORT ABERCROMBIE, 1863

stayed around the fort until September 23, when they retired because of reinforcements at the fort.

One of the interesting sidelights of the massacre comes from the Sioux who were fighting there. The Indians were being shot with a marksmanship above that of the ordinary soldier at the fort. They sent word to the fort that they wished to see Clear Sky, for they knew that no one in all that country could shoot as he could. The soldiers sent word that no one was in the fort by that name. The deadly marksmanship kept up, and at last the Indians withdrew, for they said that no man could stand against Clear Sky in a fight. Pierre Bottineau, whom they knew as Clear Sky, had helped save Fort Abercrombie.



This great Minnesota trouble has not been investigated thoroughly, and there is a marked difference of opinion as to how many were killed in the massacre. Some say that there were not over two hundred, but others estimate the number who were killed during the days of August and September, 1862, to be one thousand.

At once the settlers called upon their governor for protection, and after a series of events Sibley rounded up the Indians at Camp Release, on the Minnesota River. Thirty-eight were hanged at Mankato, December 26, 1862. It was a terrible punishment for the Sioux, and even to this day the memory of that hanging lays a restraining hand upon them. For example, fifty years later an old Sioux woman was asked to tell of her experiences in this massacre. She had seen white men killed at the Yellow Medicine Agency. She said, "I respect you. I cannot tell you for you would tell the Great Father and he would send soldiers out here to hang me."

The next year the frontier demanded the punishment of the rest of the Indians. The United States government sent General Sibley and General Sully to punish the Indians who had escaped to the Dakota land. The soldiers who composed this army were not in any state of mind to be fair with the Indians, for many of them had passed through the atrocities of the massacre and thought that the red man did not deserve justice. Their judgment was—an Indian had struck and an Indian must suffer.

General Sibley was to campaign from the east, and General Sully was to take his troops in from the south;

and these forces were to meet at Apple Creek, on the Missouri River. General Sibley was to drive the Indians to the Missouri River, and General Sully was to take up the work from that point.

While the two armies were being formed many of the Indians who had committed the depredations escaped to Canada or hid in Minnesota. While the armies were in the west some of these Indians returned to Minnesota and carried on their work of death and destruction.

The campaigns of Sibley and Sully form a story in Civil War history which make that great struggle seem very near to us. North Dakota did her bit to preserve the nation.

#### SUGGESTED TOPICS

1. What attracted the early settlers to Minnesota?
2. What does the Indian trader do? Why is he the "Man-in-the-Dark"?
3. Who was to blame for the Minnesota massacre?
4. Ask some old pioneer to tell you of the Indian troubles in Minnesota.
5. Where were the soldiers at this time? Did the Indians know of what was going on?
6. Were there any white people in the northern part of the Dakota Territory at this time?
7. Why was Fort Abercrombie built on the Red River?

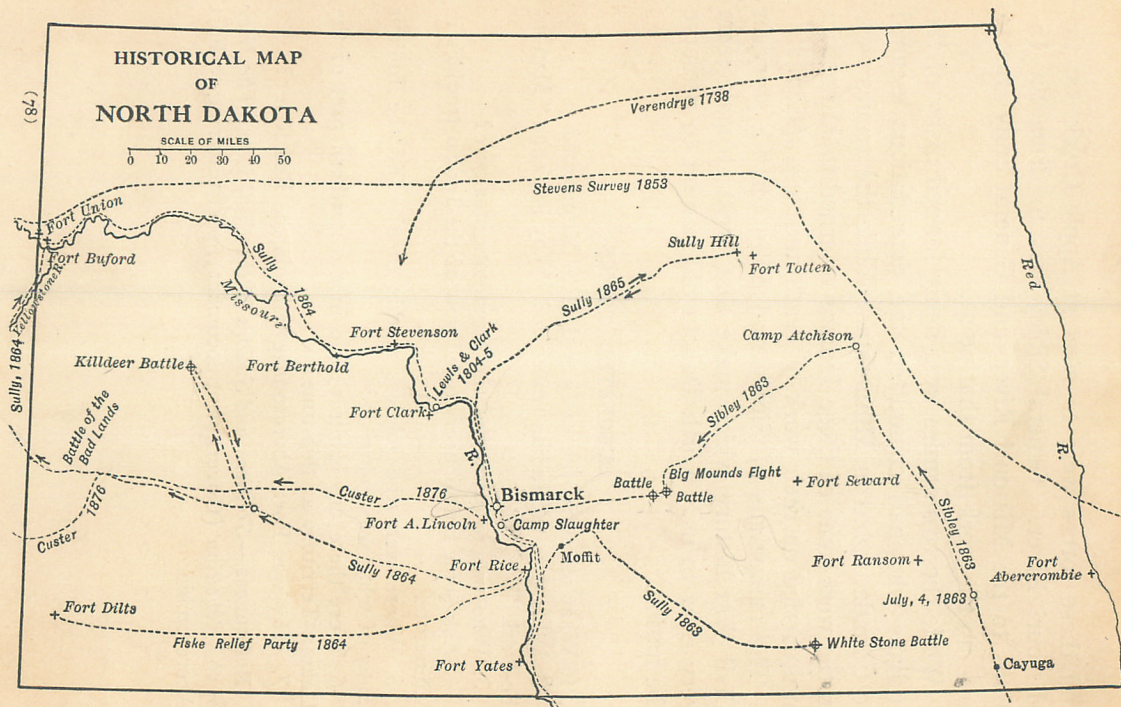
**References.**—*Soldiers and Sailors in the Civil War; The War of the Rebellion* (Government document), part referring to Fort Abercrombie.



(84.)

# HISTORICAL MAP OF NORTH DAKOTA

SCALE OF MILES  
0 10 20 30 40 50



## CHAPTER XIV

### THE SIBLEY EXPEDITION

ALL during the winter of 1862 and the spring of 1863 men and equipment were gathered at Camp Pope on the Minnesota River below Redwood Falls. These strong, healthy soldier boys, many of them not over seventeen or eighteen years old, from the farms and towns of Minnesota, drilled early and late. They were preparing for the long march into the Dakota land. The land of the Missouri seemed very far away to these young fellows, but like all pioneers they were eager for the adventure.

The expedition moved out of Camp Pope, June 16, 1863. There were in this army 4075 men, including soldiers, scouts, and civilians. To many of these hardy pioneers the whole expedition seemed a farce, for they realized that the army was chiefly of infantry, and had to overtake a mounted enemy.

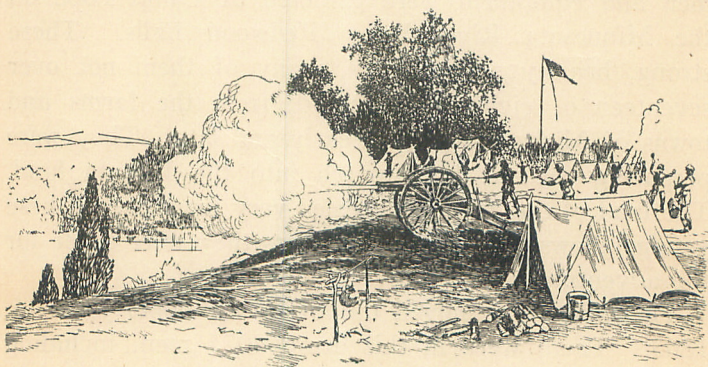
Day after day through the sweltering summer these soldiers walked along in a cloud of dust raised by the 225 six-mule provision train. They came into the state south of Cayuga, near Skunk Lake, and camped on the fourth of July at the big bend of the Sheyenne River, southeast of Lisbon. This was the first great rest of the army.

To-day may be seen the wells which they dug on the



hillside near the camp. The defenses are clearly discernible, and the outline of the camp may be followed in the sod. Here they received their first mail by the way of Fort Abercrombie. General Sibley sent out scouts in all directions, but these scouts did not see any signs of Indians.

The soldiers had a fine Fourth of July celebration, with speeches, firing of the cannon, and feasting. To-



CANNON OF THE PERIOD

day, that celebration is a bright spot in the memory of the old soldiers.

The long train slowly made its way north and crossed the Sheyenne again near Ashtabula, at what is known as the Fiske crossing. They went into camp at Camp Atchison, on the shore of Lake Sibley, four miles south of Binford.

The corner of this camp is marked by a high bank of earth which was thrown up at that time. Twelve hundred soldiers threw up the breastworks in a day, and

inside were placed all of the surplus supplies, the worn-out animals, and the sick soldiers, while the main army, loaded lightly, started west to find the Sioux.

When they had traveled out towards Hawks Nest, a two days' journey, they came up with a large company of Pembina hunters. A French priest in this company had with him a boy whom he had ransomed from the Sioux. The French half-breeds told the Sibley men that the Sioux were only a few days on towards the Missouri River, near the Big Mounds.

The army caught up with the main body of the Sioux on the 24th of July, 1863, near Big Mounds, ten miles north of Tappen. The battle of the Big Mounds was fought and the Indians were driven west. Dr. Weiser, surgeon of the troopers, was killed while negotiating with the Sioux. Lieutenant Freeman was killed when he was out on the side hunting with George Brackett of St. Paul. Private Murphy was killed by lightning while he was riding over the top of Big Mounds. Gustaf Stark was killed in the running fight with the Indians. These men were buried on the battlefield.

About ten miles farther on one of the bravest fights of the whole expedition was fought with the Sioux who was next in authority to Bad Kettle, the chief Indian commander. When the American soldiers on horseback reached the rear of the Indians who were fleeing from the Sibley forces, they found a large, powerful Indian commanding the retreat. When he saw that it was of no use to urge the women on at a faster rate, and realized that capture or death was inevitable, he fired his gun off into the air and waited for the cavalymen



to reach him and take him prisoner. But these men were not taking Indian prisoners. They were out to kill, so at once they started to fire. The Indian grabbed his gun, fired at the cavalymen and shot Stark, killing him. Again, as swift as the stroke of a rattler, he loaded and fired, shooting another man by the name of Moore, who died some months later. The cavalymen were firing at him from all sides, but he loaded his gun and shot the Captain's horse through the withers. By that time the Indian had been shot a score of times, and he dropped dead.

The soldiers gathered around him, each wanting something by which to remember the brave Indian. His blanket was cut to pieces and divided among the horsemen. The man who got the Indian's tomahawk told the story, adding this remark: "Time has softened our attitude toward the Indian. That man, as I think of him now, was the bravest fighter I ever saw. He saved the retreating forces of the Indians. When I look at my tomahawk I marvel that I could wish to kill instead of taking an enemy prisoner, but at that time our brains were on fire, and all Indians were bad Indians."

The infantry did not have a chance to get to the Indians that day, and men who knew the Indians affirm that at the battle of the Big Mounds there were no Indians who had taken part in the Minnesota massacre. Whether this is absolutely true is a question which has not been fully settled.

Other skirmishes were at Dead Buffalo Lake and at Stoney Lake, north of Dawson and Driscoll. The Indians at these two encounters were protecting the flight

of the women and children. On the 29th of July, 1863, the Sioux were driven across the Missouri River at Camp Slaughter, on Apple Creek, four miles south of Bismarck.

At Camp Slaughter the soldiers burned the wagons and the supplies of the Indians. Two men were killed here, a private and Lieutenant Beaver, a young Englishman who was on Sibley's staff. At Camp Slaughter the Masons opened the first masonic lodge in the state, and Lieutenant Beaver was buried by them with due honor.

After waiting for a number of days and signaling for the Sully forces the army moved back to their base of supplies. They found the men at Camp Atchison had captured the son of Little Crow, and from traders they also learned that the Indians were committing depredations in Minnesota.

The forces now returned to Minnesota. Part of them went south and part of them stayed in Minnesota to guard the border. The expedition had accomplished little in a military way, but it opened up a new state to four thousand men and advertised the broad expanse of prairie far beyond the Minnesota state line.

#### SUGGESTED TOPICS

1. Who was Sibley? Where did he get his soldiers?
2. Did the Dakota land seem far off to these soldiers?
3. Mark the route of the Sibley forces.
4. Tell the story of the brave Indian who protected the retreating Indians and gave his life for them.



5. Had these Indians been in Minnesota? Were the Indians still killing in Minnesota during this expedition after them?

6. What was the effect of the expedition on the men in the Sibley army?

**References.**—Records of the War Department; Collections of the State Historical Society of North Dakota.

## CHAPTER XV

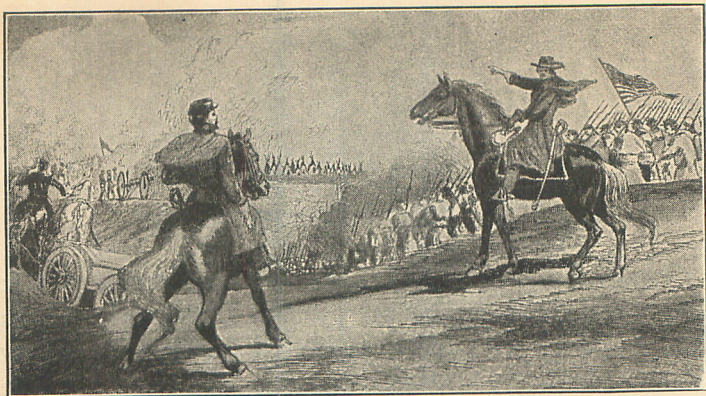
### SULLY AFTER THE DAKOTAS

WHILE General Sibley and his forces were making their way slowly across the prairies, General Sully with his command was delayed on the Missouri River by low water. After many days he arrived at a camp near the present town of Moffit. Three scouting parties were sent out to find the Sioux and also to locate the Sibley forces. One party was to go to the Missouri River, the second one to Apple Creek, and the third party took a fresh trail to the east.

The party which was sent to Apple Creek found an old Indian woman and learned from her that Sibley had been on the Missouri River a month before. The party that went to the Missouri River did not find any trace of the Sioux, so they decided to take the trail east. The trail was a fresh one and it showed a considerable camp of the Sioux.

Major House with a party of the Second and Third Battalion went on a scouting expedition ahead of the army to the east and came upon the Indians. He tried to persuade the Indians that they should go back to the Sully camp with him and make some treaty with General Sully. All the time he was talking with them he could see that the Indian women were packing up the camp.





GENERAL SULLY'S ARMY

The young Indians told Major House that they could easily drive out the soldiers, but they were restrained by the old men. All of these things made the Major uneasy and he sent a messenger to Sully to send reinforcements at once.

The old Indians kept their heads that afternoon, but some of the younger, hot-blooded Indians wished to fight the soldiers at once and drive them out. As the afternoon wore away the situation became tense, and it was a happy sight just at sunset to see the Sully command ride over the farther hills and race down to the Indian camp. Part of the camp had started away, but the Indians were corralled. The Nebraska troops started to fire and their attack was returned with a will. Darkness soon put a stop to the fighting, and the men slept on their arms. It was a dear price to pay for a victory, for twenty-five men were killed and thirty-eight wounded in the evening battle.

The next day, on the fourth of September, the troops rounded up the prisoners and buried the dead. There were about three hundred of the Indians killed and wounded.

It took one hundred men two days to gather up the meat supply of the Sioux and burn it. Even after burning from forty to fifty tons of meat they gathered twelve wagonloads to feed the prisoners. About three hundred lodges, with equipment, were destroyed. It is still a moot question whether any of these Indians had taken part in the Minnesota massacre, but the stronger



*Courtesy of W. E. Ravelly*

WHITE STONE HILL MONUMENT



arguments seem to show that the majority were not connected with the Minnesota affair.

A beautiful monument marks the ground where the battle took place, the White Stone battlefield. This is situated about fifteen miles west of Monango in Dickey County.

General Sully took his prisoners to Fort Pierre, and his command wintered on the Missouri River at the forts. He was ordered to be ready when spring came to lead his men to the Teton Indians beyond the Missouri River.

The Tetons had been asked to take part in the Minnesota troubles in 1862. They had actually started to Minnesota to help their brothers, but they had not gone far before they found that there was only a general massacre by "whitemanized" Indians; so they went home to their prairies beyond the Missouri.

#### SUGGESTED TOPICS

1. Tell something about General Sully.
2. Trace the route of Sully into the Dakota country.
3. Tell the story of the White Stone battle.
4. What effect did the battle have on the Indians?
5. Was the battle with the Indians an unequal battle?
6. Find out how many Indian tribes there are in the Sioux nation. How is a new Indian tribe formed?

**References.**—Collections of the State Historical Society of North Dakota; Benson, *With Sully in the Sioux Land* (an account in story form).

## CHAPTER XVI

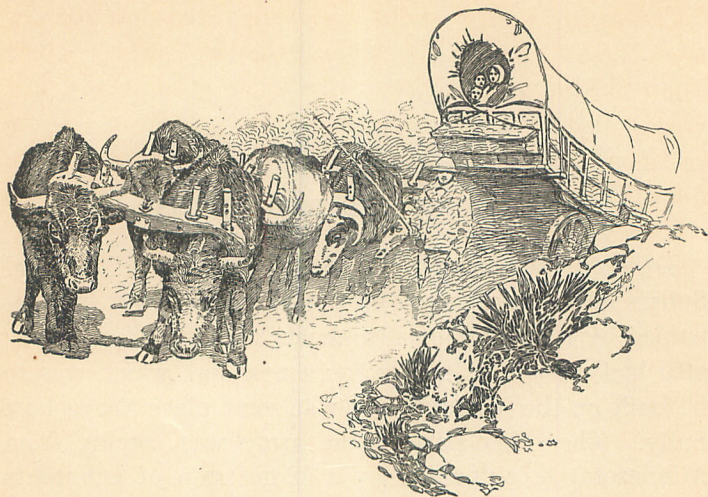
### SULLY IN THE BAD LANDS

DURING the summer of 1864 a portion of General Sully's new army started up the Missouri River, accompanied by a number of steamboats with supplies. They also had on board lumber for a new fort which was to be built on the Missouri River at some place above Fort Sully. The other part of the army was coming from Minnesota, accompanied by a large train of emigrants from near Jordan, Minnesota. These emigrants were going to the gold fields of Montana, escaping from the draft which they feared would put them into the federal army.

About the middle of July these two sections met and crossed the Missouri River and started to build Fort Rice. Fort Rice was to be the base of supplies for this army of 2200 cavalry, scouts, and civilians, and also it was to be made the base for all parties going through to the Montana gold fields.

The 2200 cavalry, with 400 wagonloads of supplies and the hundred wagons of emigrants, started out of Fort Rice July 19, 1864; and the command was "Go West." The whole command had to keep pace with the oxen of the emigrant wagons, and the seventy scouts were ordered to find water and feed for the long train behind them.





A PRAIRIE SCHOONER

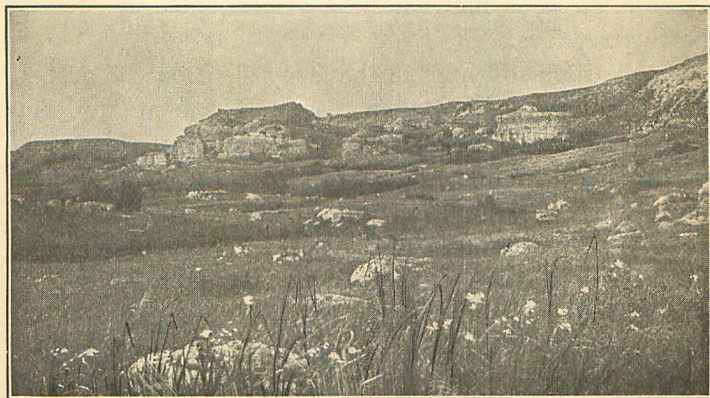
The broad rolling prairie, the buttes, the hills, and the Bad Lands of the slope country had never heard such music as Trumpeter J. F. Meile of New Ulm gave on this trip. He was a wonderful musician and he took a great deal of pride in the two bands which the army had with them. Many a long evening, when the twilight of the prairies was playing among the hills, the bands would rest the tired soldiers with a concert. One of the pleasant memories of this trip into the Bad Lands was of the concerts out on the prairies.

On July 26, 1864, the scouts brought back word that the Indians were on Knife River. General Sully corralled the extra teams and the emigrants with a small force of soldiers on the Heart River, southeast of Dickinson.

The army, without tents and with provisions for six days, moved toward the hills along the Knife. They found the Indians camped in the hills beyond the Knife River called, "In the Place they Kill the Deer." To-day we know these hills as the Killdeers, situated forty-six miles north of Dickinson.

On the morning of July 28, 1864, they could see the smoke from the camp fires of the Indians; and a little later they saw many Indians fleeing up over the hills carrying the alarm of the coming army. At noon they had arrived at Crosby Butte, three miles from the Teton camp.

Brackett's Battalion, the Sixth Iowa, part of the Seventh Iowa, and the Dakota Cavalry took the right wing. With the support of the Jones Battery they hurried to the camp of the Sioux and gradually pushed the Indians up over the hills into the brakes beyond.



*Photo by Mr. Fish*

SITE OF THE BATTLE OF KILLDEER MOUNTAINS



The Indians had bows and arrows and flintlocks, so they were at a great disadvantage against an enemy with good rifles and a battery of cannon. Many of the Indians heard cannon for the first time that day, and it was hard for them to understand how a gun could shoot twice and how it could shoot so far. The Indians tried to save their camp, but all was confusion and very little was saved by them.

Two men were killed in the Sully command. Both were of Brackett's Battalion—George Northrup, Sergeant of Company C, and Horatio Austin of Company D. Sergeant Northrup had been in the Dakota land for many years and he was considered one of the best natural scientists in the country. He was also a great hunter, trapper, and trader. He was special correspondent for the *St. Paul Press*, in which all of his articles appeared under the name "Icimani." This was a name given to him when he was adopted by one of the Sioux tribes.

On the night of July 28 the army slept on the ground where the battle had taken place. The next day they tried to follow the Sioux, but they found that they could not get over the hills. They were recalled and the whole outfit was set to work burning the camp left by the Sioux. They burned 1600 tepees, 150 tons of meat, dried berries, robes, travois poles, and tent poles; and they killed thousands of dogs around the camp.

That afternoon they buried the two men on the battlegrounds and they picketed horses over the graves to hide the place from the Sioux. In 1914 two headstones were placed at the Diamond C Ranch to their memory.

After the army returned to the Heart River they were attacked in the Bad Lands between the Little Missouri River and Sentinel Butte. This fight is known as the Battle of the Bad Lands. It was a hard journey through the Bad Lands, for the drought took most of the feed, and what the drought left the grasshoppers ate. Hundreds of horses and mules died during the journey through the flat-topped butte country.

At the Yellowstone River they found food for man and beast. The whole command was happy for they felt that they were on their way home. The Indians had left them at Sentinel Butte. When they arrived at the Berthold Indian village on the way to Fort Rice down the east bank of the Missouri River the bands played, and the Indian women brought wreaths of corn and laid them at the feet of the band boys.

The whole command expected to be sent back to the states as soon as they reached Fort Rice, but when they arrived opposite the fort they received word that Captain Fiske with a train of emigrants was surrounded by Indians in the southwestern part of the state. One thousand men were detailed to go and relieve him. The place where Fiske was attacked was named Fort Dilts, after one of the men who was killed and buried in the breastworks. This fort is near Ives in Bowman County.

While Captain Fiske was besieged at Fort Dilts, Fanny Kelly, a white woman who had been captured by the Sioux, tried to gain her freedom through Captain Fiske, but the Indians would not give her up and she was not set free until later in the year when she was ransomed at Fort Pierre.



After taking the Fiske party back to Fort Rice, the Sully troops were sent to the forts along the Missouri for the winter. In 1865 General Sully was in our state for the third time. This time he was at Sully Hill near Devils Lake. He did not accomplish anything, so returned at once to the lower Missouri. Two national parks will mark the places visited by General Sully and his command—Sully Hill on Devils Lake and The Killdeers.

These two expeditions into the Dakota land advertised the prairies, and many people came into the southern part of the territory. However, the Indians were not quieted, for they believed that they had been wronged by the Great Father. This stirred them to such an extent that a great battle had to decide the issue.

#### SUGGESTED TOPICS

1. Where are the Bad Lands of our state? What do they look like? How are they formed?
2. Why were the emigrants going west into the Idaho country? Where did they come from?
3. Why was Fort Rice established? Locate it on your map.
4. Describe the Battle of the Killdeers. Where was this battle? What is proposed for the United States to do with the Killdeers?
5. What was the work of Fiske during these years? Where is Fort Dilts?
6. Where is Sully Hill? What has the United States done with this historic place?
7. Do you think we should preserve the historical places of the state? Why?
8. What was the great effect of these western expeditions?

**References.**—*Autobiography of Fannie Kelly; Early Western Travels*, edited by Thwaites; *War of the Rebellion*, Pt. 1. XLI, Series 1; Hanson, *Conquest of the Missouri*.

## CHAPTER XVII

### THE NORTHERN PACIFIC SURVEY AND THE BLACK HILLS EXPEDITION

THE West had been revealed to the men of the East. They saw money and power here. The vast distances had been subdued by many explorers and surveyors, and now the boundless country made men of money dream of railroads and of commerce to the Pacific.

The Indians had not been quieted for they could not forget the mistakes of the past. The men in Washington and the men of power in the East generally wanted to appease the Indians so they could start the commerce westward.

The proper officials called a council of the Sioux to draw up a treaty. After a long conference, with many fine speeches by the white men and many frank, open statements by the Indians, the Treaty of 1868 was drawn up.

The boundaries were definite. They extended from the place where the forty-sixth parallel cuts the Missouri River, down that river to the Nebraska state line, thence west to the one hundred and fourth degree of longitude, thence north to the forty-sixth parallel, and east to the point of beginning. Within this territory the United States agreed that no person "shall be permitted to pass over, settle upon, or reside in the territory described in this article."



The treaty was signed and a solemn oath was given to keep it as long as the streams flowed into the seas and as long as the grass bent before the prairie breezes. And yet those Indians who had had many dealings with the white man wondered how long he would keep this sacred document, for they knew that in times past he had kept treaties only as long as it was convenient. Some old Indians prophetically saw the white man with his dogged pertinacity slowly traveling west on "iron horses," and they saw the Indians forced aside to make way for him.

These great iron horses which "jumped from hill to hill," had to have roadbeds and had to go by the shortest and easiest routes to the western seas. In 1871 General Whistler, and in 1872 General Stanley, had command of an expedition which went west of the river to protect the engineers as they laid out the route for the Northern Pacific.

Both of these expeditions started from Fort Rice. The Stanley Expedition, or the Rosser Survey, as it was called, was especially distinguished because of the great men who went along with it. Among them were General G. A. Custer, Lieutenant-Colonel Fred D. Grant, Major Ludlow, Engineer, Charlie Reynolds, Scout, and Bloody Knife, Claymore, and Louis Agard, guides. William E. Curtis was the correspondent for the newspapers. Many of the old soldiers describe this expedition as a great pageant moving across the prairies to the west.

The Survey came back by Pompey's Pillar and down the north side of the Yellowstone to the place where Captain Grant Marsh was waiting to receive part of the

command and take them to Fort A. Lincoln on the steamer *Josephine*. This survey was abandoned by the Northern Pacific, but the Milwaukee in Montana takes up the identical route.

The next year after the Stanley Expedition the Northern Pacific reached Bismarck. There were a number of forts built to protect the railroad where it ran west to the Missouri River. Men had not ceased to look across the Missouri River into the slope country beyond.

Hardly had the newspapers stopped commenting upon the last two expeditions when another one started from Fort A. Lincoln into the Black Hills. This expedition was led by General George A. Custer. It started on July 2, 1874, and by slow marches it made the hills in a little over three weeks. The purpose of the expedition is explained in a letter of September 8, 1874, written by Acting Secretary of the Interior B. R. Cowen to Governor J. L. Pennington of Dakota Territory. This was written after the expedition returned to Fort A. Lincoln. "What is known as the late 'Exploring Expedition' of General Custer was merely a military reconnaissance of the country for the purpose of ascertaining the best location, if in the future it should become necessary to establish there a military post."

Although the purpose, as set forth in this letter, is clear, the expedition was in direct violation of the Treaty of 1868. Custer did more than look around for a good location for a future military post. He took with him a geologist, Professor Winchell of Minnesota, and a number of practical miners, with the intention of ascertaining whether there was gold in the Black Hills.



For a number of years the Indians had brought some of this shining metal to the forts and trading posts and innocently exposed it to the eyes of the white man. It was enough. The story started to seep out into the world that there was more than tepee poles up in those hills, and this report got back to the officers at the forts.

When the command reached the hills, the miners and Professor Winchell examined the rocks and valleys. Professor Winchell announced that there was no gold in the Black Hills, but the practical miners, in no uncertain words, said that there was a mint of gold in the rocks.

General Custer believed the miners and he immediately dispatched Charlie Reynolds to Fort Laramie to telegraph to the East that there was gold in the grass roots of the Black Hills. The expedition returned to Fort A. Lincoln August 31, 1874. For some time after this Professor Winchell published articles in the Twin City papers, protesting that no gold could be found in the Black Hills.

When the news spread eastward, men from all walks of life looked towards the forbidden hills. Soon the first party went out from Bismarck, which was the front door to the trail; and, stretching out in a long, slow train, the bull teams took load after load into the country reserved for the Sioux.

Although General Custer tried to carry out the terms of the Treaty of 1868, he was unable to stop the stream of men who went into the hills from the north and the east. From this time on, the treaty was broken at will; and the Indians who saw the white men going by the

thousands into the Black Hills felt greatly wronged. They knew if they did not fight, the white men would come in and take all the territory belonging to the Indians by treaty as land for their vast herds. The Indians bided their time to strike a blow for their very existence as a Sioux nation. And the white men studied carefully how they could bring on a fight for the extermination of the Sioux nation and the annulling of the treaty.

### SUGGESTED TOPICS

1. Why did the men of the East want to build the railroad to the West? How long after the Stevens survey was this route surveyed for the Northern Pacific Railroad?

2. Place on the map the new forts.

3. How could the Northern Pacific afford to build a railroad across a country where there were so few people?

4. Why was Custer breaking a treaty by going into the Black Hills?

5. Look up the Treaty of 1868 and outline the boundaries given the Sioux Indians.

6. Why was Bismarck so important a point in the Black Hills trail?

7. Ask some old pioneer to tell you about the Black Hills gold fever.

**References.**—Congressional Records; early state documents; Daniel, *The Railroad's Part* (Making of America, IV).



## CHAPTER XVIII

### THE CUSTER BATTLE

THE expeditions west of the river and the trips into the Black Hills by the white men looking for gold were but a small part of the wrongs which the Sioux had suffered since the signing of the Treaty of 1868. They were supposed to have certain annuity goods, such as blankets, flour, meat, and medicines. The annuity goods were brought up the river, but just as soon as the boats were beyond the pale of civilization the goods were tampered with. A steamer load of blankets and other goods was shipped to the Berthold Agency. When this boat reached Painted Woods over half of the load was left on shore and sold to the wood hawks, traders, and trappers, and a few wagonloads were carried to Bismarck. The rest of the goods went on to the Berthold Agency where they were stored in the warehouse, which was later burned to destroy evidence of the crime.

Flour, by the steamboat load, was taken to Cow Island in Montana, where it was unloaded, re-marked, and brought back to the men along the Missouri to be sold as traders' goods. The pork, supposed to be the best, contained the poorest pieces of the animal and was so carelessly packed that much of it was useless. The medicines were greatly adulterated.

Cattle which were sent to the Indians never got to them, but many were found in corrals belonging to the white men. The rest were taken to the reservations where they were driven around a hill and counted every time they passed the inspector.

The Indian was well aware of all these things. Steamboat men wondered why their boats were fired upon by the Indians. Most of the captains did not have a hand in stealing the goods, but they had to suffer with the rest.

There were only a few men who cared to fight against this wrong, for some of the men in the cabinet of President Grant were involved. James A. Emmons, who was running a small paper in Bismarck, had the courage to tackle the question. During a number of years he ran a series of articles under the heading, "Pirates of the Missouri." These articles attracted attention far and wide and came to the notice of James Gordon Bennett of the New York *Herald*. This famous editor sent a young reporter as special correspondent to investigate the conditions which were said to exist.

Ralph Meeker came directly to Editor Emmons and talked over the matter with him. He changed his clothes and started out as a wood hawk and laborer under the name of George Thompson. At times he was on the upper Missouri tracing the goods as they went over the border into Canada, and at other times he was in the hay fields around the forts. Again he was traveling along with the wood hawks from one wood yard to another. All the time he was gathering a mass of evidence.



In due time he returned to Bismarck and called on Mr. Emmons, and they went over the evidence. Mr. Emmons had in the meantime been sued for libel for twenty-five thousand dollars by Secretary of War Belknap, of President Grant's cabinet. The *New York Tribune* printed a series of articles on conditions in the West and this led to the resignation of Secretary Belknap. The suit was dropped at once.

These conditions led up to the Custer Fight. The Indians felt that they must fight for their rights as possessors of the soil and as beneficiaries of a treaty which was not fulfilled.

In the fall of 1875 the Indians had wandered far into the buffalo country for food. The friendly Indians had gone with those who were especially angry with the government for their treatment. All were in search of food for their families. During the fall of 1875 the agents were instructed to send word to all of these Indians that they must be back upon the reservation by January 1, 1876, or they would be counted as enemies.

The Indians could not get back at that time of the year, even if they were so disposed. Who has traveled over the prairies of the Dakotas in the dead of winter? Who has tried to move a family through valleys full of snow and over hilltops raked by a cutting wind?

When spring came many Indians were out on the plains enjoying the freedom that an open life gives. The army was ordered to bring them back by force. General Crook was to strike from the south, General Gibben from the west, and General Terry from the east at Fort A. Lincoln.

On May 17, 1876, the officers and soldiers at Fort A. Lincoln had a grand parade on the flats below the infantry post, and as they wound around the campus and up over the hills they seemed formidable enough for the whole Sioux nation.

The women of the fort had premonitions that the army would not come back, but "Custer's luck" since the Civil War days seemed so well established that they soon flung their fears to the winds. There were in the command which went out from the fort fifty officers, nine hundred and sixty-eight enlisted men, one hundred and ninety civilians, and forty-five scouts and interpreters, making a total of one thousand two hundred and fifty-three. The expedition had one hundred and fifty wagons, three gatling guns, and a beef herd.

The soldiers did not see any Indians until they reached the Montana country, although they saw traces of them in the Bad Lands of the Little Missouri. While in the Bad Lands the command was held in camp the first three days of June, 1876, because of a great snowstorm.

At the mouth of the Powder River on the Yellowstone they met the Gibben command who had taken the steamer up the Yellowstone toward the Bighorn, where they expected to find the Indians.

The Seventh cavalry moved on without cannon or other heavy guns, for they placed all their faith in the superb troopers. They moved slowly towards the Little Bighorn River until June 24. That evening the guidon (flag) pole which was set up for the camp fell down three times before the wind, and at once the Arikara scouts saw ill luck for the party. They started to rub



themselves with sage and to pray to the Great Spirit so as to counteract this bad omen.

The next morning, on Sunday, June 25, 1876, the Arikara scouts took Custer to a high hill and pointed out the camp fires of the thousands of Sioux. Custer paid no attention to the scouts.



THE CUSTER BATTLE

About noon the troops came to a hill overlooking the Sioux camp. Still Custer did not send out scouts. He sent General Reno with a small force to strike the upper end of the village and he rode away to fight at the lower end of the Sioux camp.

No white man came out of the battle to tell the tale of the short, sharp encounter, so we must depend upon the Sioux and their allies for the story of the battle:

“The Great Spirit led the Indians to the Little Bighorn because it was a natural place for a large camp.

On the eve of the battle there were between two thousand five hundred and three thousand men in camp besides women and children. It was not a camp on the warpath but a camp for a great hunt. The Sioux had been in camp scarcely four days before Custer came upon them. A few days before, the Sioux had defeated General Crook, and they were feeling the joy of the battle. They had many guns from the agency and from traders, and were sparing of the ammunition so they had plenty.

"Gall, Crazy Horse, and Hump knew a battle was certain, but in the councils the old men advised against it. Sitting Bull, the holy man, predicted a complete victory for the Sioux. This victory would mean for the Sioux that the white man would respect the treaty and stay on his own side of the river.

"When Custer rode up at noon the Indians were unprepared to meet him. Gall, with five hundred of his warriors, rode against Reno's handful of soldiers and forced them to the other side of the river. Then Gall left old men and boys to guard Reno and he rushed to the lower end to attack Custer. They found Custer at the ford. A retreat was sounded and Custer and his men fell back to the hills. The Sioux followed, giving their war cry and waving blankets. This stampeded the cavalry horses.

"In thirty minutes the Custer command was entirely wiped out, leaving the dead from the ford to the top of the hill. The Sioux lost thirty-one."

There were two hundred and four of the Custer command killed. As soon as Custer's division was annihilated,



the Sioux turned against the Reno forces, but did not dislodge them, for the leaders advised against more fighting. Two days later the Gibben forces came up and found the Sioux moving out towards the Big Horn Mountains. Gibben found that the Custer forces had been destroyed, and General Reno for the first time received the news of the disaster from Gibben, although he had been but four miles from the Custer battlegrounds.

The wounded of the Reno command were taken to the *Far West* steamer, and Captain Grant Marsh made his record run to Fort A. Lincoln with the news. The Sioux all liked General Custer, but they knew that this victory saved their lands west of the river and obtained for them important treaty rights.

#### SUGGESTED TOPICS

1. What did Custer do in the Civil War? At the Black Kettle fight?
2. What conditions on the Upper Missouri led to the Custer fight?
3. Why did the Indians not come to the agency when ordered by the government?
4. Should the Seventh Cavalry have taken along cannon and gatling guns to the fight on the Little Bighorn?
5. Tell the story of the Custer Fight.
6. Follow on a map of the United States the route of Custer.
7. Do you think the Custer Fight saved the land of the Sioux Nation from white domination?

**References.**—Collections of the State Historical Society of North Dakota; McLaughlin, *My Friend the Indian*; Custer, *Boots and Saddles*; C. A. Eastman, *The Story of the Little Big Horn* (in *Chautauquan*, July, 1900).

## CHAPTER XIX

### EARLY FORTS

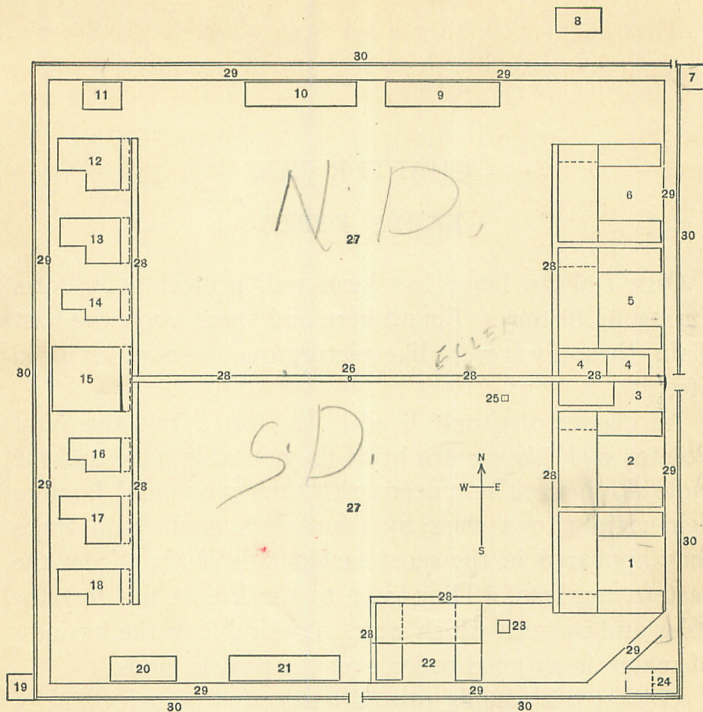
OUR Dakota home has been well protected by forts during its history. Found here and there upon the vast plain, these forts were like picturesque oases of civilized life.

All classes of people lived in the forts, from the West Pointer with his eastern bride to the stable hand and the mule skinner. The officers with their wives and families held rigidly to a class by themselves, and at all times they appeared in the most fashionable clothes from the eastern markets. They gave to the life at the fort the color and warmth which were so desirable in the business of maintaining good order over the prairie lands.

Pioneer life usually proved harder for women than for men. The women helped and encouraged the men in their work of policing the plains and also in subduing the soil. The women watched over the men on the march, in the camp, and in the fort. And then, when a campaign was on, they had to stand the uncertainty of the home-coming of the soldiery.

The men at the posts found life rather monotonous, and the more ambitious soldiers vied with men at other forts in raising the finest gardens. Some forts were noted for their fine onions or excellent root crops, and exchange of products was carried on for years.





*Drawn by H. C. Fish and M. Hyatt*

### FORT RICE, 1870-1871

- |                                |                                |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Co. K, 17 Regiment Quarters | 15. Gen. Crittenden            |
| 2. Co. G, 17 " "               | 16. Capt. Van Horn             |
| 3. Adj't.-Quartermaster Office | 17. Lieutenants                |
| 4. Guard House                 | 18. Capt. Clark                |
| 5. Co. H, 17 Regiment Quarters | 19. Blockhouse                 |
| 6. Co. D, 17 " "               | 20. Library                    |
| 7. Blockhouse                  | 21. Quartermaster's Storehouse |
| 8. Soldiers' Latrines          | 22. Hospital                   |
| 9. Commissary Store            | 23. Weather Bureau Gauge       |
| 10. " "                        | 24. Bakehouse                  |
| 11. Magazine                   | 25. Sundial                    |
| Officers' Quarters:            | 26. Flagstaff                  |
| 12. Lieut. Chance              | 27. Parade Grounds             |
| 13. Dr. Goddard                | 28. Sidewalks                  |
| 14. Contract Drs.              | 29. Driveway                   |
|                                | 30. Stockade                   |

The forts may be classified in distinct groups, although many times these overlapped in their purposes. There were forts for the protection of the frontier and our early boundaries. Many of the forts were fur trading centers which were guarded by only a few soldiers. The large reservations were policed by forts which held the Indians in check and doled out the annuities. The last of the forts were built to protect the railroads and to guard the mail routes.

Fort Abercrombie was built in 1858 for the protection of the eastern part of the Dakotas. It was used in the early pioneer days as a great rendezvous for the emigrant trains which toiled over our long trails to the Montana gold fields. Captain James L. Fiske used the fort as the last trading post before he rode into the prairies as an escort to the gold-seekers going west. Many times the commander at Abercrombie sent on a few soldiers with the independent wagon trains. Many pioneers upon the Missouri River look upon this fort with great respect, for it stood in the early days like a Gibraltar against lawlessness and against Indian uprisings.

Fort Rice was built in 1864 by the Sully forces. It was used as a base of supplies for the Sully forces and for many of the divisions which went out to protect the exploring and the surveying parties of the seventies. It also protected the early settlers from Indian forays. Many of the old timers along the Cannon Ball and through the Bad Lands speak of this post with a great deal of affection.

In 1870 Fort Pembina was established on our northern





*Photographed in 1879 by Goff*

BLOCKHOUSE AT OLD FORT BERTHOLD

boundary. It protected the Red River of the North and the Pembina country. This post also kept a close watch on the Indians crossing and recrossing the line from the Dakota and Minnesota reservations.

There were a number of forts which were used chiefly as trading posts. These posts had a nation-wide reputation because of the men who advertised them through their books, and by pen and brush. Fort Clark was established the latter part of the eighteenth century in the Mandan village, although the trading post was not

built until about 1820. Fort Clark was visited by the Lewis and Clark party, the Maximilian travelers from Germany, and the great artist Catlin. It was well known as the center of the buffalo country and as the heart of the great corn district. The travelers and the trappers spoke of these forts as the "Mandan villages."

Fort Union, a noted trading post, was an important meeting place for parties which journeyed across the prairies or came up the Missouri River. The Indians and the trappers along the Missouri, as far north as Canada, all recognized the strength and power and excellent worth of this post.

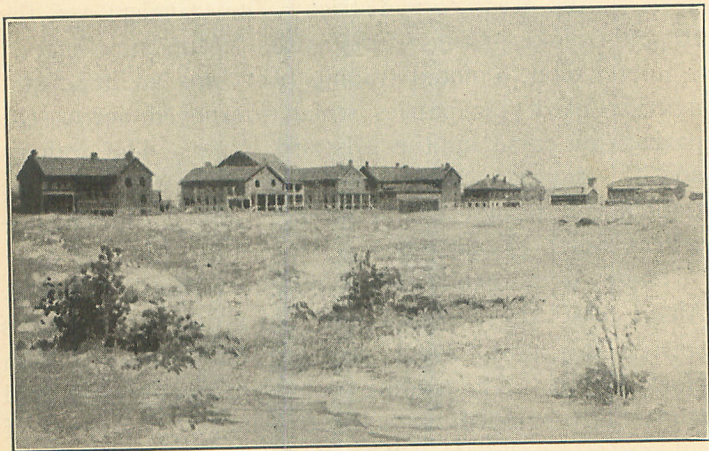
There were two trading posts at Fort Berthold. About 1840 the Mandan and the Gros Ventre tribes started this post, which was at first known as Fish Hook Village. The trading posts were started later, and when Sully stopped there in 1864 he left a number of soldiers to protect the village against the Sioux. As late as 1870 the trade in furs was considerable. The Indians of the village moved up to the present Berthold reservation, but they often recall the "good old days" at the village.

Fort Totten and Fort Yates were built as reservation posts. Their purpose was to hold the Indians in check, dole annuities, and help the Indian office in its work of allotting land to the Indians. These posts were a great boon to the early settlers in times of famine and sickness.

Forts Ransom, Seward, A. Lincoln, and Buford were built to protect the building of the railroad and guard the mail routes. Fort Ransom had been used for only



a short time when its location was changed to the present site of Jamestown, and it was called at first Fort Cross and later Fort Seward. The most noted of these forts was Fort A. Lincoln, which was especially



A GLIMPSE OF FORT LINCOLN

The old Fort A. Lincoln was abandoned many years ago, and the new Fort Lincoln, shown above, was established on the east side of the Missouri in 1899.

known for the part it played in the Black Hills survey and in the Custer campaign. It protected the trade into the Black Hills and kept a sharp lookout for all Sioux war parties. Hundreds of romantic stories deal with the life in this post.

Some day the tales of our posts will be gathered together and will be a vital part of the fascinating literature of our North Dakota life. The State Historical Society for a number of years has been preserving the

sites of these old forts and trading posts, and gradually it is gathering information about these places which will be used by the local units for preparing a history of them.

#### SUGGESTED TOPICS

1. Describe a fort. Describe the people to be found in a fort, and their occupations.
2. Place on the map the new forts named in the chapter.
3. Which kind of fort would you prefer to live in? Compare the usefulness of different kinds of forts.
4. Of what importance is a fort in new country that is being settled?
5. Gather some of the romantic tales from men and women who have lived at these forts.

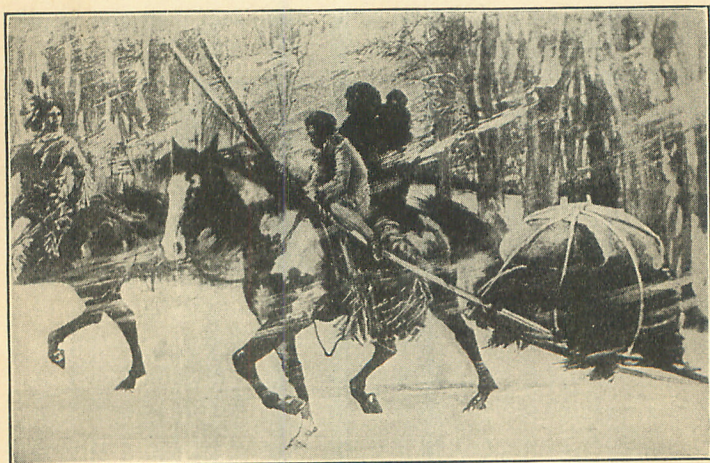
**References.**—Larpenteur, *Forty Years a Fur Trader*; Custer, *Boots and Saddles*.



## CHAPTER XX

### TRAFFIC ON OUR PRAIRIES AND RIVERS

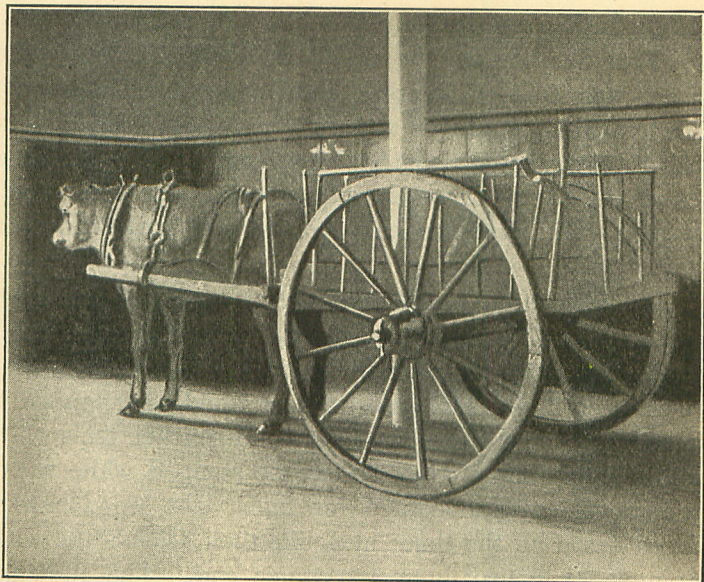
THE earliest pioneer came into our country on foot, or if he was fortunate he rode a horse. He found the Indian hauling his freight on travois poles placed over the back of his small Indian pony.



*From a painting by Charles M. Russell*

#### INDIANS TRAVELING, WITH TRAVOIS POLES

But the Indian method was too slow for the pioneer, who soon began to use the Red River cart. The frame was large, and strong enough for from eight hundred to one thousand pounds of freight. The carts carried meats



*Courtesy of State Historical Society*

#### A RED RIVER CART

and furs to St. Cloud and St. Paul, and returned with freight from the Pembina country. Some of our early pioneer brides took their honeymoon trips to the Twin Cities in Red River carts. The rate of travel was only two or three miles an hour. If any part of the cart broke, the nearest woods supplied material for the repairs.

After the Red River cart came the stage and the heavy freighter. These generally ran from the steamboats and slowly made their way into the remote country places.

Steamboating started in the thirties and it reached its



height in 1869 when sixty-nine boats passed up the river to Fort Benton on the upper Missouri. Life on the river was full of interest and romance. Those who started from St. Louis toward the far-off head waters had to carry enough material for repairs to last the long journey. Many times the pilots would say when they started, "If anything happens we will make another boat."

The trip often meant long, hard hours of excessive toil, getting off of sand bars or loading fuel at some wood yard. All along the river the wood hawks had their long piles of cord wood for sale. These wood hawks made it possible for the steamboats to make quicker trips with less danger than if they had to be stopped while wood was being cut and corded for fuel. The wood hawks faced death all the time; and, like their friends the wild animals, they usually met a tragic end. The Indians, highwaymen, feuds among themselves,—all made the business extremely hazardous.

There were many dangers in the old days of steamboating. The Indians were always waiting for a chance to stop the traffic on the upper Missouri, and because of this, the steamboats took on rifles at Fort Sully for some months. Other dangers came from low water, from the thousands of snags before there was a government snag boat, the hidden rocks, the sand bars, and the ever-changing current.

The wages of the captains and the pilots were very high, reaching at times one thousand or twelve hundred dollars a month. The season for up-river traffic was short, so while it lasted there was a hustle and a hurry

which added much zest to the work on the boats which were making record trips.

Thousands of tons of freight were carried to the upper river for the forts, trading posts, and the reservations. The return trip was made quickly with tons of hides and meat for the lower Missouri towns. To-day, along the Missouri River, we may see the enormous freight houses which were used a generation ago for this upper Missouri traffic. The buildings are rotting, and in some cases the foundation alone stands, but all tell a tale of the greatness of the river traffic.

There was some traffic on the Red River of the North. In 1861 the steamer *International* was built. But during



*After a drawing by Charles Bodmer*

#### BULL BOATS USED BY THE INDIANS

These round boats were of wicker frames covered with buffalo hide. Notice the village of Indian earth lodges in the background.



the Sioux outbreak this trade was interfered with, and it did not start again until the late sixties. It rapidly increased from that time, until in the early seventies there was considerable business on the river.

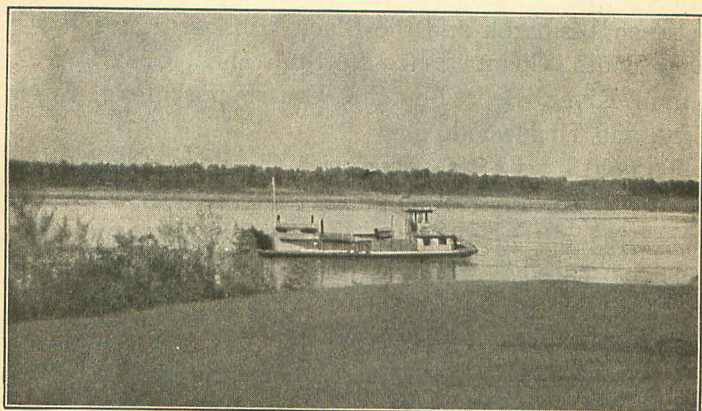
One of the reasons for the breaking up of the river trade was the coming of the railroad. In 1872 the first railroad reached North Dakota. In the spring of that year the Northern Pacific crossed the Red River of the North at Fargo and was started west towards the Missouri River. By fall the railroad had progressed as far as Crystal Springs. By the middle of June, 1873, the first train whistled into Bismarck.

The first train brought a motley crowd to the tent town. Many of the traders, the government surveyors, and the squatters came into the country near Bismarck before the railroad reached that point. The first town in this boom settlement was Carleton City, which was located across the river from Fort A. Lincoln. The town consisted of a bakery, a store, and a number of saloons, with here and there a tent. The site is now on a long sand bar.

When the railroad survey was graded down towards Carleton City a place called Burleigh Town was established, just south and east of the present site of Bismarck. For a time it was a thriving town of wooden shacks, carrying on a big business for the new railroad crew and the early settlers. But the town was abandoned after the failure of the construction company, for the new survey brought the railroad over the same grade we have to-day.

Edwinton was started near the Missouri River, but it

gradually moved back to the present site of Bismarck; and Carleton City, Burleigh Town, and Edwinton in time combined into the city of Bismarck. Bismarck was the end of the railroad, an important river town, and situated across the river from the great western post Fort A. Lincoln. It was a very prominent town in the early days. Many of its fine people came from New England and New York. Although there were some of



*Photo by Miss Frances Mallory*

OLD FERRY BOAT *Marion* ON THE RIVER BETWEEN  
BISMARCK AND MANDAN

the men and women of doubtful character who always flock to the frontier towns, the better element was a wonderful leavening influence, and it was not long before the place was changed into a city of homes.

As soon as the railroad reached Bismarck the river traffic was lessened considerably, but another traffic began which reached out into the Black Hills. The bull



trains for a number of years were a familiar sight in Bismarck, and the bull whacker took his place as a distinctive individual in the early town life. These ox teams carried on the heavy freight traffic in the Black Hills and for the forts up and down the Missouri. From fifteen to twenty yoke of oxen were used to draw the wagons.

A stage was also run from Bismarck to the Black Hills. The stations for the stages and the bull trains between Bismarck and the Black Hills were as follows: Dog Tooth, Chanta Peta, North Branch, Cedar Creek, Grand River, Belle Fourche, Grasshopper Pete, Crook City, and Deadwood.

The old days of traveling with the stage, the slow ox, or the uncertain railroad are over; and now we see stretching out in all directions good roads, which help out the speedy traffic of our great transcontinental railroads.

#### SUGGESTED TOPICS

1. How much freight can you haul on a travois? On a Red River cart?
2. Describe a trip on a steamboat from St. Louis to Fort Benton in the year 1869.
3. Why were the wood hawks so useful on the Upper Missouri? Why was their job hazardous?
4. What cities made up our capital city? Why is the capital called Bismarck?
5. What freight was transported to the Black Hills?
6. Write a story of a ride from Bismarck to the Black Hills.

**References.**—*Early Western Travels*, edited by Thwaites; Hanson, *Conquest of the Missouri*.

## CHAPTER XXI

### THEODORE ROOSEVELT IN DAKOTA

THEODORE ROOSEVELT loved nature and welcomed adventure. A younger brother had been in Texas, where he had experienced many stirring adventures. The recital of these adventures stirred up in young Theodore, who was handicapped by frail health, a longing to get out into the untamed wilds and have such experiences himself. Some years later, in spite of his weakness from a recent illness, Theodore Roosevelt started west to find adventure and hardship in Dakota Territory. The Northern Pacific Railway had been built through to the Pacific Coast. Roosevelt thought he might find buffaloes in the Bad Lands. There were not many towns suitable as a starting place for a hunt so he chose a little town which we now know as Medora. He dropped off the train at this place in the middle of a cool night in September, 1883.

On the following morning he made his first appearance to the citizens of that little "cow town" in the heart of the Bad Lands. He wore spectacles and looked like a "dude"; a "tenderfoot" he certainly was, and no one expected him to do much as a buffalo hunter. Joe Ferris of the Chimney Butte Ranch was in town and, in spite of his misgivings as to the man's ability to endure the trials of the new and rough country, he took the Easterner to his home.



The Chimney Butte Ranch house was a log structure with a roof of poles and dirt. It had only one room, which served as the home of three cowboys: Joe Ferris, his brother Sylvane, and Joe Merrifield. Buffaloes were



ROOSEVELT AS A WESTERN RANCHER

already becoming scarce in that part of the Bad Lands, but Joe Ferris volunteered to serve as guide on a hunting trip, thinking that somewhere within reasonable distance they could find buffaloes. In a hunt of three days' duration Roosevelt not only shot his coveted buffalo, but so proved his grit and his pluck that he won the esteem and lasting friendship of his three companions.

Roosevelt had a strong liking for the rugged country.

It was a country that made men, perhaps rough men, but men trained to self-reliance under circumstances that brought out the best qualities they had. On this visit to Dakota, Roosevelt stayed three weeks, and before leaving he bought the Chimney Butte Ranch and established Joe Merrifield as his foreman. He wanted a place like this where he could get out into the wilds, and he also believed there were possibilities of doing good business in ranching.

Roosevelt had been a member of the New York Legislature and he was again elected to that body in 1883. By his active out-door life he had regained much of his strength and vigor, and he took keen interest in his duty as a lawmaker. He was gratified with his success in politics and saw the possibilities in political life for a courageous man of high ideals, but later he became disgusted with the thought of following such a life when he realized the price he would have to pay to curry public favor and deal with demagogues. He preferred to work at tasks more in the open.

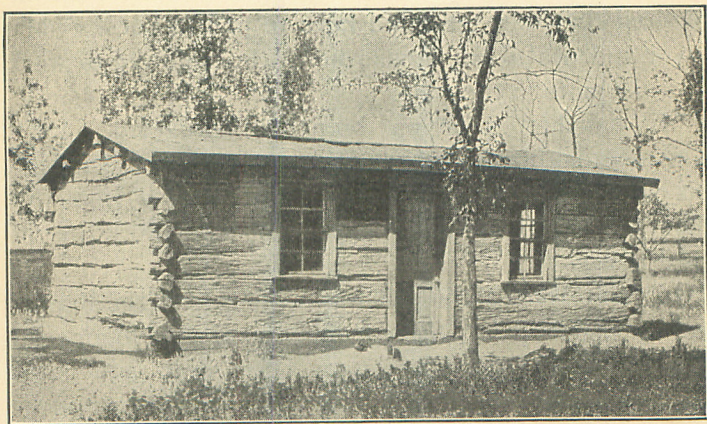
His daughter Alice was born on February 12, 1884. The next day he was struck by a double tragedy, as both his wife and his mother died. In recovering from this blow, he threw himself again into hard work in the Legislature.

In June, 1884, Roosevelt was a delegate to the Republican convention at Chicago which nominated Blaine for President of the United States. Roosevelt was not a Blaine man, but would not bolt the ticket nominated by his party. The misunderstanding and bitterness that surged around him at this time made him disgusted and sick at



heart. Immediately upon the adjournment of the convention he left Chicago for Dakota and arrived at Chimney Butte Ranch late in June. The beauty of the Bad Lands country and the substantial ruggedness of its hills soothed his spirit and he took up the ranch life with zest. He was too late for the spring round-up but he found plenty to do. When not employed at some task at the ranch he could go hunting. If the salt meat of the ranch became tiresome he would go out and shoot grouse or ducks to provide a variety of food.

With his home in New York broken up, he decided to build himself a new home in this land which he found so satisfying. Forty miles or more down the Little Missouri he found a place that appealed to him. From the interlocked antlers of two great elk which he found there he named this new place Elkhorn.



*Finney's Daily Photo Service*

THE ROOSEVELT CABIN, NOW ON THE STATE HOUSE GROUNDS

He went east in July, 1884, and while there persuaded two friends from Maine to come to Dakota with him. These were Bill Seward and Will Dow, and they came with the expectation of becoming partners of Roosevelt if the venture should promise a good investment. These three reached Chimney Butte Ranch on August 5, and taking a herd of one hundred cattle they moved down to the Elkhorn Ranch, a drive that took a great amount of skill as well as time. After establishing this nucleus of a herd at Elkhorn, Roosevelt, with Dow, Seward, and Merrifield, joined a round-up of cattle that were grazing out in the country to the west of the Bad Lands. This took them into Montana and northern Wyoming.

Seward and Dow were looking after the cattle with the Roosevelt brands, so Roosevelt and Merrifield took a hunting trip into the Big Horn Mountains for elk. To Roosevelt's delight they found not only elk and bears, but a place where nature was still in its unspoiled state. They were three hundred miles from Chimney Butte. Roosevelt had discovered a hunting ground which lured him into the wilds at a later time, when as President he felt the need of recreation, and which probably did much to prepare him for the great African hunt of later years. On the return journey from this hunt the two men encountered many hardships and a severe storm, but with characteristic energy they pushed on and reached Chimney Butte Ranch ahead of the larger party that they had left in charge of the cattle.

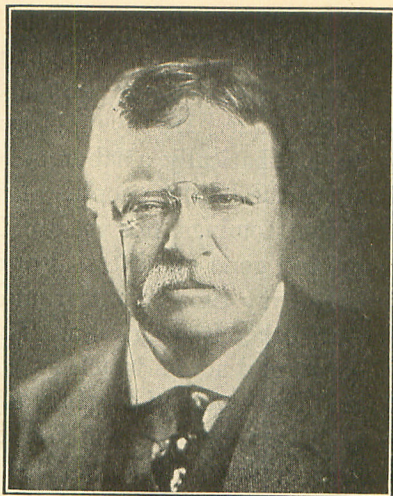
Roosevelt went east for a part in the presidential campaign of 1884, but returned in November to help Dow and Seward cut timber for the new house that was being



built at Elkhorn. The winter of 1884-1885 was spent at the Chimney Butte Ranch. This was a severe winter, but it passed pleasantly for Roosevelt, who found pleasure in reading, writing on some of his books, and training horses to the saddle. The house at Elkhorn was completed in 1885, and August of that year saw the arrival of Mrs. Dow and Mrs. Seward. Here for the next two years Roosevelt had a home in surroundings that gave him rugged health and a deep insight into life as lived in the great outdoors.

Roosevelt went east again just before Christmas in 1885, but returned in the following March and enjoyed one more summer on his ranch. He had increased his herds of cattle until he had thousands, but the price of cattle was low and the venture in ranching was not paying as well as he had expected. However, he held on and several years later sold out his interests in Dakota at a price that saved most of his investment.

His reputation and character were making a place for him in this new West. He served for a few months as deputy sheriff of his county, a county that covered more than five hundred square miles of territory. In this office he showed the courage and the conscientious regard for duty that characterized his later public life. Men respected him, and all who knew him felt that a man of his type would make a good public officer and would be a popular candidate with all the voters. One of the Dakota newspapers of 1886 expressed a fear that this young man who had so recently come to the territory would aspire to the office of Delegate in Congress from Dakota Territory. But he was not to serve his people in that way.



THEODORE ROOSEVELT AS PRESIDENT

In 1886 he was nominated for mayor of New York, and his return to the East in the autumn of that year marked the end of his active participation in ranching. Although his experience in Dakota had not brought him much as a financial venture he had gained something more valuable than money. He had won the strength of body which he had set out to gain and which was to carry him through the strenuous years of office holding and through his great hunting and exploring expeditions. More than this, he had won an appreciation of the common man as he found him typified in his companions of ranching days, and his own ideals had crystallized into that sterling integrity which made him the foremost American of his time.

The people of North Dakota have always held



Roosevelt in highest esteem. Roosevelt's feeling that his life in Dakota had brought him an understanding of the pioneers in America is well set forth in the introduction to his *Winning of the West*. He says: "I would say that it has been to me emphatically a labor of love to write of the great deeds of the border people. I am not blind to their manifold shortcomings, nor yet am I ignorant of their many strong and good qualities. For a number of years I spent most of my time on the frontier, and lived and worked like any other frontiersman. The wild country in which we dwelt and across which we wandered was in the far west; and there were of course many features in which the life of a cattleman on the Great Plains and among the Rockies differed from that led by a backwoodsman in the Allegheny forests a century before. Yet the points of resemblance were far more numerous and striking. We guarded our herds of branded cattle and shaggy horses, hunted bear, bison, elk, and deer, established civil government, and put down evil-doers, white and red, on the banks of the Little Missouri and among the wooded, precipitous foothills of the Bighorn, exactly as did the pioneers who a hundred years previously built their log-cabins beside the Kentucky or in the valleys of the Great Smokies. The men who have shared in the fast vanishing frontier life of the present feel a peculiar sympathy with the already long-vanished frontier life of the past."

#### SUGGESTED TOPICS

1. For what length of time in months did Roosevelt live in Dakota?
2. What qualities made Roosevelt so popular?


3. Where did the men get the timber for the new house at Elkhorn?

4. Write a short article on ranch life in the early days of Dakota.

5. How would the life of a ranchman tend to make a man strong and rugged?

6. Look up Foley's verse written at a time when President Roosevelt was to visit North Dakota,—“He's coming back as President.”

**References.**—Hagedorn, *The Boys' Life of Roosevelt*; Roosevelt, *Hunting Trips of a Ranchman*.





## CHAPTER XXII

### STEPS TOWARD STATEHOOD

THE movement toward statehood began in the early history of Dakota Territory. For sixteen years the problem of division with the question of admission to the Union was constantly in the minds of her own politicians; and the ambitions of this territory engaged the attention of the statesmen at the national capital for more or less time in each of fifteen sessions of Congress.

After the close of the Civil War, attention was turned to the vast public domain west of the Mississippi. The Union Pacific Railroad was completed, and the great possibilities of this region became more generally known. Soldiers were encouraged to take up claims. Many of the immigrants who came in large numbers to the United States found inviting conditions in the Northwest. By 1870 Dakota Territory had a population estimated at 10,000.

The states of the Union had pretty generally assumed their present boundaries by 1870. The admission of Colorado in 1876 led other territories to aspire to the same privilege. By 1880 the people of Dakota were anxious for statehood, but for several years political considerations and other obstacles in Congress doomed the people to disappointment. Circumstances so shaped

themselves that it became apparent that admission to the Union was impossible without division.

As early as 1870 the people of the territory began to feel that the interests of all the people would be best served by dividing the territory with an east and west line near the center of its area. The territorial Legislature of 1871 adopted a memorial to Congress asking that the territory be divided into two parts on the forty-sixth parallel of north latitude; and similar acts were adopted in the Legislatures of 1872, 1874, and 1877.

In 1873 a bill was introduced into Congress to establish the territory of Pembina from the northern part of Dakota Territory. Later an amendment was offered to substitute Algonquin as the name of the proposed new territory. As the southern part was settled and developed first its people felt they had a valid claim upon the name Dakota, and there seems never to have been a thought on the part of Congress to deprive the southern part of the territory of that name. Although in the many attempts to form a new territory of the northern part several names were proposed, such as Pembina, Algonquin, and Lincoln, North Dakota seemed early to be the most acceptable name.

There were several reasons that made division imperative. The territory had been early settled in two widely separated parts. Pembina was a trading post, and actual settlement came slowly. The earliest immigration of homesteaders was into the southeastern part of the territory. Then came the settlers in the Red River valley. The railroads were built east and west, and there was no railway line joining the two parts



of the territory for direct communication. Members of the Legislative Assembly from the northern part traveled by way of St. Paul to reach the early capital at Yankton, and later when the capital was located at Bismarck the same was true of many legislators of the southern part. The diversity of interests of the two sections was further accentuated by the discovery of gold in the Black Hills. The people of the two extreme parts of the territory did not have the opportunity of cultivating the acquaintance of each other, and jealousies easily sprang up, grew, and flourished.

The removal of the capital from Yankton to Bismarck in 1883 very much increased the desire of the people of the southern part of the territory for division. So strong was this feeling that a state constitution was drawn up and submitted to the voters in forty-two counties and carried by a vote of nearly two to one. This constitution was for that part of Dakota south of the forty-sixth parallel of north latitude. Congress did not approve this document, nor the one which was presented two years later, after the vote of the people had passed it with a majority of about four to one.

The people of northern Dakota were not indifferent to the advantages of division and statehood. In September, 1883, a "Mayors' Convention" met at Fargo and adopted resolutions in favor of admission or division. The next convention met at Aberdeen in 1887. This was called the "Wind Convention," presumably from the amount of speech-making. It was attended by delegates from the northern half of Dakota and from Brown County. The convention passed a resolution

that the territory be divided, the northern half to be called North Dakota. The third of the informal conventions met at Jamestown, in 1888, and sent a committee of five to Washington, where they met the delegates from Dakota and other territories.

The problem of division was a live issue. Political considerations in Washington were interposing to delay the admission of northern states which would naturally increase the vote of a strong political party. Also it was an important question as to where to draw the dividing line. In the first measures before Congress the forty-sixth parallel was designated. At a later time a proposed change was to form East Dakota and West Dakota with the Missouri River as the line of division, but this would not bring the two most thickly populated portions any nearer together. That division would also have made one state and one territory instead of two states. By 1886 the forty-sixth parallel was abandoned and the seventh standard parallel of the government survey appears in the measures discussed from that time. This change was made because the forty-sixth parallel was not easy to locate, and crossed quarter sections, part of which would be in one state, and part in the other state.

In January, 1889, the battle in Congress for the admission of the Dakotas began in earnest. Heretofore, the Senate had passed bills for admission only to have them fail in the House. Now, Representative Springer of Illinois, the chairman of the committee on territories, took up the cause. After extensive debate, after many amendments and revisions had been passed, and after



a conference committee from the two houses had met, a bill was passed, which was signed by President Cleveland on February 22, 1889. One of the four new states to be formed was North Dakota. The Enabling Act, as it was called, provided for a convention of seventy-five delegates to meet at Bismarck on July 4, to frame a constitution which would be submitted to the voters in October. The part of the territory which was to become the state of North Dakota was divided into twenty-five districts, about equal in population. Each district was to elect three delegates, but in order to give representation to the minority each elector was to vote for only two delegates. By this plan the minority party should elect one of its candidates. (In districts where party lines were well drawn and observed the plan worked well in electing two of the three from the majority party and one from the minority, but party lines were not closely observed in many of the districts. The election was held on May 14. A snowstorm made this a day to be remembered. One of the daily papers said, "Going to the polls in sleighs on the 14th of May to elect delegates to the constitutional convention was a novelty never to be forgotten by those who participated."

#### SUGGESTED TOPICS

1. What brought so many people to Dakota Territory?
2. Why should the settlers in Dakota Territory so strongly desire statehood?
3. Why was there relatively so little north and south travel?
4. What is the customary method by which a territory becomes a state? Is there another method?
5. How was the boundary line between the Dakotas marked? How is the northern boundary of North Dakota marked?

6. Look up "Minority Representation." Why should it have been tried in the election of delegates to the Constitutional Convention?

7. In what delegate district was your home located? Who were the delegates from that district?

**References.**—*North Dakota Blue Book* for 1919; files of the *Bismarck Tribune* and other papers of the time.

F. & B. N. DAK.—10



## CHAPTER XXIII

### FRAMING THE CONSTITUTION

ON Thursday, July 4, 1889, at 12 o'clock, the delegates met in the hall of the House of Representatives at the capitol, and were called to order by the secretary of the territory. The next day the oath of office was administered to the delegates by one of the associate justices of the territorial Supreme Court, and the organization was completed later by the election of officers and the adoption of rules of order.

Of the seventy-five delegates, fifty-two were born in the United States, ten in Canada, and thirteen in Europe. As might be expected in an agricultural state, the farmers outnumbered those of any other occupation, the lawyers coming next in numbers. It was a young man's convention. Sixty-five per cent of the delegates were under forty years of age. Four of the delegates were still in their twenties, and only nine were past fifty. Of these delegates two have since been governors of North Dakota and three have represented their state in Congress. Many have held important offices in state or county affairs. The Republicans predominated, but very little partisan feeling was shown in the convention. The President gave representation to the minority party on the permanent committees equal to their proportion of the whole number of delegates, and the chairmanships were distributed in the same manner.

The convention sat with open doors, and usually a fair-sized audience of men and women occupied the gallery. Several distinguished visitors came to speak or look on. Governor Arthur C. Mellette addressed the convention on policies in constitution making. He advocated placing in the constitution everything that the delegates knew to be proper for such a document and in this way avoiding the evils of excessive law making by the legislators. A few days later, Judge Cooley of Michigan spoke on constitution making, urging that the delegates trust the Legislature on the new questions that might come up, and that the legislators for future years be left free to meet new questions as they arose. Two United States Senators and several distinguished men spoke in behalf of projects they were presenting to the people of the nation at that time.

According to the provisions of the Enabling Act, the convention met at Bismarck, and the regular sessions were held in the House chamber. With so many committees there was a question of rooms for committee meetings. The rooms in the capitol were used and some committees held frequent meetings at the hotel. The Governor's office was used by the Joint Commission. After the convention had been in session for about twenty days a memorial was presented from the mayor of Jamestown inviting the convention to adjourn to that city for the remainder of the time required to complete the constitution. The mayor guaranteed rooms for the work of the convention free of expense, and entertainment for the members of the convention. At the time it was presented this invitation caused little comment.



It was referred to a committee of three, and this committee recommended that the invitation should not be accepted. Bismarck, the place chosen by Congress, remained the seat of the convention.

The convention completed its work on the forty-fifth day of its session. Of these forty-five days, six were Sundays, and of the remaining thirty-nine days, seven were passed in adjournment, leaving thirty-two days on which the convention was actually in session. The rules provided for one daily session, giving the evenings and forenoons to committee work. Later, when the reports were well in hand, two sessions were held daily by meeting in the evenings; and for three days near the close of the convention three daily sessions were held. Several attempts to adjourn for a few days were defeated and a working majority was kept on hand with the exception of one session. It was the time of year when the farmers felt they should be at home looking after the harvest, and some delegates preferred to go home and think over matters before taking a final vote; but the majority felt the business should be done while the delegates had matters fresh in mind.

Some of the members of the convention had been in political life before and all had watched with great interest the attempts of the territory to secure statehood, so the convention was well qualified to draw up a constitution. Many well defined issues were already before the people. Some of the questions that had been discussed by the people and the press before the opening of the convention concerned: prohibition, local subsidies to new railroads, minority representation, the length and

number of legislative sessions, the governor's veto, the length of official terms, and the system of voting to be used.

Copies of the constitutions of other states were at the capitol, and the new constitution proposed for South Dakota was on the desk of each member. The Enabling Act had been printed in pamphlet form. Abstracts of forms from other documents had been prepared for the convenience of the delegates. The experience of other states was freely drawn upon. There was a determination to get the best and latest for the new state, which was starting its career without traditions to hinder or experience to guide in working out its destiny.

A document which contained a complete state constitution of twenty-seven articles and three hundred and eighty-two sections attracted much attention at the time, and one of the delegates says it was generally drawn upon to complete the constitution. The question of its authorship received more attention than the document itself. It became known afterwards as the Williams Constitution, from the delegate who introduced it. Mr. Williams has never claimed the authorship, but, gratified with the aid it afforded the convention and preferring to leave the question to those who wish to investigate it, he says that it came from an eastern lawyer and was handed to him by a Bismarck lawyer to be presented to the convention.

There were some novel and interesting plans introduced for consideration, which met various fates at the hands of the committees and the convention. A

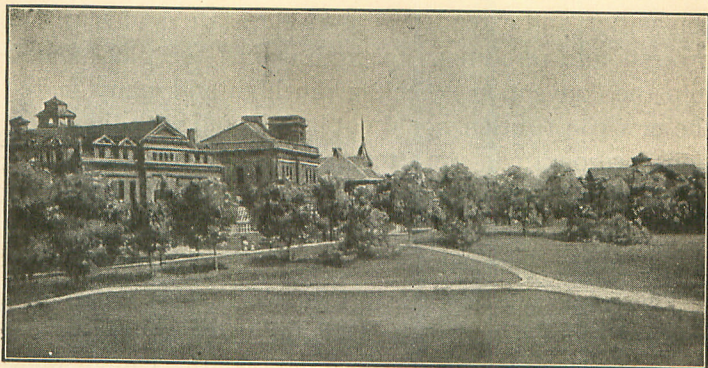


very sharp debate centered around the plan of obliging the Supreme Court judges to give their opinions upon important questions of law when required by the Governor, Senate, or House of Representatives. The experience of other states where this had been tried convinced many that it was practically impossible because of the large volume of business before such courts at all times. With an Attorney-General as the legal adviser the plan was thought unnecessary, so the entire clause was struck out.

A legislature to consist of a single house was proposed, for the reasons that one house would be less expensive and that there was no real need for a Senate in the Legislature of North Dakota. Much history was referred to and precedent was invoked on both sides of this question, but a clause providing for a Legislature of two houses with members elected from senatorial and representative districts which were identical was finally adopted.

The question of prohibition of the liquor traffic was a live one with the people of the territory. The Committee on Temperance, from the eleven proposals referred to them, reported in a single article of six lines a clause which prohibited the manufacture or importation of intoxicating liquor or keeping or offering the same for sale, gift, barter, or trade as a beverage. Fearing that such an article might endanger the adoption of the constitution, this was submitted to the voters as a separate article to be accepted or rejected upon its own merits.

It seems to have been fully expected that Bismarck would be the temporary capital and that the location



STATE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE AT FARGO

of the permanent capital would be submitted to the voters of the new state. But in a report submitted by the Committee on Public Institutions and Buildings the capital was located at Bismarck. The other institutions named in the report were: the state university and school of mines at Grand Forks; the agricultural college at Fargo; two state normal schools at Valley City and Mayville; a deaf and dumb asylum at Devils Lake; a hospital for the insane already located at Jamestown; an institution for the feeble-minded at Grafton; a soldiers' home at Lisbon; an asylum for the blind to be located by the voters of Pembina County; an industrial school and school for manual training at Ellendale; a school of forestry to be located by the voters of McHenry, Ward, Bottineau, and Rolette; and a scientific school at Wahpeton. All of these except the forestry school, afterwards located at Bottineau, were endowed with some of the land given the state by the United States government. For ten days a heated argument was carried on inside the



convention and extended all over the state, and scores of protests and resolutions for and against the plan poured into the convention. Feeling ran high and many feared the new constitution would not be adopted with these sections incorporated. An attempt was made to have this part of the constitution submitted to the voters as a separate article, but the plan carried and the sections locating the public institutions were incorporated in the constitution.

There was one feature in connection with the constitutional conventions of the Dakotas that was unique and original. No other states had entered the Union under circumstances which required an equitable division of territorial property. This property belonged to all parts of the territory, although the larger number of public institutions was in southern Dakota because of its larger population and greater voting strength in the Legislature. The Enabling Act provided that the two conventions should appoint a Joint Commission to meet at Bismarck to agree upon a division of the property, the disposition of the public records, and the adjustment of the territorial debts. The agreement reached was to be incorporated in the respective constitutions, and each state was to obligate itself to pay its share of the indebtedness. Each convention appointed seven of its members to serve on this Joint Commission. The public property, including the public institutions then in existence, the public library, the record books, and the cash, and also the indebtedness and other liabilities, were divided by the commission; and their agreement became a part of the constitutions of the two states.

As provided in the Enabling Act and in the constitution

an election was held on October 1, 1889, at which the constitution was adopted by a vote of 27,441 to 8,107. The article on prohibition was submitted separately and received an affirmative vote of 18,552 to a vote of 17,393 in the negative, or a majority of 1,159.

The constitution was sent to President Harrison, who issued a proclamation of admission on November 2, 1889.

### SUGGESTED TOPICS

1. Why should we expect so many young men in the Constitutional Convention of 1889?

2. Make a detailed outline of the procedure you would expect to be followed in a constitutional convention.

3. What would be the sources drawn upon for the provisions of a new constitution?

4. What might be the advantages of a Legislature of a single house? The disadvantages?

5. At the present time how may the Constitution of North Dakota be amended? How many amendments have been made?

6. Look up the method followed in dividing the territorial property.

7. What other state institutions have been located since the adoption of the Constitution?

8. Has North Dakota what you would call a long or a short form of state constitution? Compare it with the Constitution of the United States.

**References.**—Journal of the Constitutional Convention of North Dakota; Debates of the Constitutional Convention; Collections of the State Historical Society of North Dakota, Vol. III; Young, *Government of North Dakota and the Nation*.



## CHAPTER XXIV

### THE LOTTERY FIGHT AND PROHIBITION

AT the election held October 1, 1889, state officers and members of the Legislature were also voted for so that when the constitution was adopted the new state could be organized immediately and secure its due representation in Congress.

The newly elected Governor, John Miller, took the oath of office November 3, 1889, and on the next day issued a proclamation calling the first Legislative Assembly. This session was given one hundred and twenty days (double the ordinary session). In that time it elected two United States Senators, Lyman R. Casey and Gilbert A. Pierce, adopted a new legal code, and put in force the new constitution, passing one bill over the Governor's veto.

A measure of special interest that came before this session was one which attempted to establish and perpetuate the notorious Louisiana State Lottery. This organization had been denied an extension of its charter by Louisiana, so its supporters sent George H. Spencer, formerly a United States Senator from Alabama, to procure a charter in North Dakota.

A bill, known as Senate Bill 167, granting the charter, was introduced in the Senate and was passed by more than a two-thirds vote. A very tempting offer of aid

was held out to the legislators in return for passing the bill. In the Senate Journal is found the proposal of the lottery company from which the following is taken (from the Journal of March 12, 1890):

"Whereas it is deemed advisable that a bill, known as Senate Bill 167, be passed and become a law in the state of North Dakota, with certain amendments thereof, as hereinafter indicated, in consideration of the franchise, immunities, and privileges to be granted by said bill to any corporation complying with the terms thereof, the said general manager of the Louisiana State Lottery Company hereby agrees to pay into the treasury of the state of North Dakota the sum of \$150,000 per year as provided by the terms of said bill . . . and in further consideration of such franchises, immunities, and privileges to furnish said committee for the purpose of distribution among the farmers of the state in accordance with the spirit of the letter of said resolution 250,000 bushels of A No. 1 Hard wheat—before April 15, 1890. . . . As evidence of good faith to deposit in a bank selected by the committee the sum of \$200,000 to be security for the performance of the agreement. . . . Said wheat shall be returned by the parties receiving the same upon harvesting and threshing the crop bushel for bushel and is to be loaned upon the personal credit of those receiving it.

By George E. Spencer, Attorney."

Governor Miller was strongly opposed to the lottery and did not want the good name of the new state smirched by permitting an enterprise to establish itself in North Dakota after it had been outlawed in its native



state. So he marshalled the forces of the opposition to prevent the passage of the bill in the House. He raised funds to circulate petitions and employed detectives to secure evidence of suspected bribery and corruption of members of the Legislature. He inspired press articles and secured protests from prominent business men and bankers of St. Paul, Minneapolis, Chicago, and New York. He brought representative men to Bismarck to aid in defeating the bill. Even then there were thirty-nine votes for it (a little less than two thirds) on test votes in the House.

About this time the Congress of the United States passed a law prohibiting lottery tickets from being carried by corporations engaged in interstate transportation and from the mails. The advocates of the lottery saw that their occupation was gone, so they abandoned the fight. On February 10, 1890, the House indefinitely postponed the lottery bill and the scheme went to its death.

Another great moral reform was that of the prohibition of the liquor business. The new constitution provided for prohibition, but the "wet element" were not disposed to give up their lucrative trade without a fight. A license system had been in vogue in the territory, but many people were opposed even to this concession, and when the opportunity came to vote out the saloons in the adoption of the constitution a large majority helped pass the measure. It had been possible to have saloons in every town and they had been established everywhere. The saloon men were dominant in politics, even controlling the selection of county, city, and school officials.

Many people were weary of this dominance and of the arrogance of the liquor men. There was one distillery and there were eight or ten breweries in what is now North Dakota. Public sentiment had been lax if not even friendly to drinking.

A local option law had been passed by the territorial Legislature of 1887, and this helped in some places. From this time prohibition sentiment increased by leaps and bounds. The territorial Legislature of 1889 was favorable to prohibition. A law was passed by the Council (the upper house) providing for prohibition throughout the territory. This law was an adaptation of the Kansas law, and was the foundation of the law passed by the first Legislature of the new state. Before the territorial Legislature adjourned the Enabling Act was passed by Congress, so the action on prohibition was deferred and the question left to the constitutional convention. The North Dakota Non-Partisan Temperance Alliance was taking active part in supporting prohibition measures and also in the selection of delegates to the constitutional convention who were favorable to prohibition. The Alliance called a state convention of one hundred delegates at Grand Forks about the time of the constitutional convention and recommended an article for the new constitution, with the plan of separate submission.

In the first legislative session the Alliance, which had a committee of its own on legislation, had many friends in the assembly. The old territorial statute was amended and adapted to the new conditions, with some features drawn from the Iowa law. The prohibition law was



introduced into the Legislature as Senate Bill 1 and House Bill 6, and was finally passed on December 19, 1889, with only one vote in the House and eight votes in the Senate against it.

On July 1, 1890, open saloons disappeared from North Dakota. For some years "Blind Pigs," as they were called, still carried on more or less business in the sale of liquor; but the State Enforcement League in coöperation with the Women's Christian Temperance Union raised funds to prosecute law breakers, and the business became too dangerous and unprofitable to be inviting. Since the first law, changes have been made increasing the penalties and making them more severe. The law is so strictly enforced that no one cares to risk open defiance.

#### SUGGESTED TOPICS

1. What change has there been in the method of electing a United States Senator since 1890?
2. Why should there be objection to a state lottery?
3. What was a license system in the liquor business?
4. What is "local option"?
5. Why was the lottery offer a strong temptation?
6. For what other "moral laws" has North Dakota been well known?
7. What was there unusual in the activities of Governor Miller?

**References.**—Journals of the Senate and House of the First Legislative Assembly of North Dakota; Collections of the State Historical Society of North Dakota.

## CHAPTER XXV

### THE MESSIAH WAR

ABOUT the same time that North Dakota was becoming a state, the Indians of the territory were becoming greatly excited over the promised coming of their Messiah. Missions had been established throughout the whole Indian land and many of the Indians had adjusted their own faith to the beliefs of the white man as taught to them by the missionaries. The Indians had always worshiped a Great Spirit and the expectation of a Messiah of their own had secured deep root among them. News and rumors spread quickly through the Indian country. Several Indians had claimed to be the promised Messiah but had been able to exert small influence. In 1889 a report reached the Dakota Indians of a Messiah in the west who was showing himself to his people.

Several Indians went to see the new Messiah. They found him in Mason Valley, Nevada, in the person of a noble Indian by the name of Wovoka. This man met his fellow Indians around their council fires and told them of a vision in which he was taken up to heaven and shown many things of interest in the future life and given a code of precepts to take back to his fellows on earth. According to Wovoka's prophecy the Great Spirit was to do away with the white man, the earth was to be given back to the Indian, and the game was to return so



that prosperous days would come back and the land would be one of peace and plenty for the red man. The code of precepts given was in harmony with that of the white man's Bible and taught the Indians to be honest, industrious, and peaceful, and not to injure or disturb the white people. The Great Spirit himself would bring about the new era. The Indians were to do their part by living and acting as the Great Spirit commanded.

The Messiah taught a new dance that was meant to take place at certain seasons of the year. It lasted during a period of four nights and had to be kept up all through the night. The dance was a wild, weird affair. The exhaustion of the dancer was supposed to bring visions of what would come when the new order should be established. It was the dance and its influence upon the Indians participating that created trouble with the government authorities later.

In 1881 Sitting Bull had returned from Canada, whither he had fled after the Custer fight at the Little Bighorn. Since that time he had attracted little attention outside his circle of immediate followers. Fortunately, he was under the jurisdiction of a government agent who understood Indian nature and Indian management better than anyone else of that time. This was James McLaughlin, the agent at Standing Rock. Had the wise counsel and good judgment of this man been followed, one of the bloodiest pages of Dakota Indian history might not have been written.

Sitting Bull had not regained his prestige lost in 1876, and he was glad of any opportunity to secure recognition as a great medicine man of the Sioux. He had around

him on Grand River a band of Indians more or less discontented and susceptible to any influence that would stir feeling against the government.

A factor greatly increasing the discontent at this time



*Finney's Daily Photo Service*

SITTING BULL

was the reduction in the food supply furnished by the government. The reason for this reduction was difficult of explanation to the Indian mind. The neglect in regard to the food supply was only one more of the long line of blunders made by government officers who were largely ignorant of the real nature of Indian affairs. Shortage of food made enemies of many Indians who could have been kept loyal by good treatment. Large numbers of the younger element had left the reservations for the Bad Lands, when their protests had been met by display of



armed force. These were in communication with the reservation Indians and followed the events of the dance craze. Indirectly, Sitting Bull had great influence over this whole band of Indians.

When the Messiah enthusiasm reached Dakota it made an easy convert of Sitting Bull. His standing with the government was so bad that the authorities would not permit him to leave the reservation for a visit he wished to make to the Pine Ridge Agency. He did, however, get away to take part in the conclave fostering the dancing; and so arrogant and defiant became his attitude that the Indian authorities determined upon his arrest.

Some of those best suited to deal with the Indians were sent out to stop the dance craze, and especially to keep Sitting Bull from spreading it any further. This plan was not successful and orders were issued to arrest Sitting Bull. A squad of Indian police, backed by a detachment of soldiers, undertook this task and succeeded in arresting the old medicine man; but the alarm was spread and his followers came out with arms. On slight additional provocation a disorganized fight occurred in which Sitting Bull and many of his followers and several of the Indian police were killed.

The government authorities determined to disarm the Indians, many of whom were at a place known as Wounded Knee. Here a number of Indians, including squaws and children, were found by a troop of soldiers. Not enough arms were given up to satisfy the commanding officer, so a search of the tepees was undertaken. A harebrained Indian and an over-arrogant soldier

provoked a battle at short range. Several troopers were killed, and a great number of Indians, especially squaws and children, were slain. In revenge, the troopers chased their victims out on the prairie and continued the slaughter as long as there were any Indians to be found. That night the sky spread a mantle of snow over the pitiable spectacle. The next morning several Indian children were found and were either restored to their parents or placed where they could receive care.

General Miles was sent into the Dakotas to put down the trouble and restore order and confidence. After several months of good management he succeeded in restoring order, and the last great Indian conflict in the Northwest was over. The trouble had been fomenting for years and the settlers had been badly handled by unfriendly Indians and had lost faith in the security of that country as a place for homes. The settlement of 1890 went far to restore that faith, after one of the most hostile Indian leaders had been killed, and others made peaceful. North Dakota was prepared for the great developments waiting at its doors.

#### SUGGESTED TOPICS

1. How do you account for the rapid spread of news throughout the Indian country?
2. Why did the Indians have to be supplied with food by the government?
3. On what charge was Sitting Bull to be arrested?
4. Who were the Indian police? Look up material on Red Tomahawk, the Indian policeman whose shot is said to have killed Sitting Bull.
5. Find more information about the Battle of Wounded Knee.



6. Locate Grand River, Fort Yates, the Standing Rock Reservation.

**References.**—Johnson, *Life of Sitting Bull and History of the Indian War of 1890-91*; Fiske, *Taming of the Sioux*. These are accounts in reach of the general reader. There are several articles and chapters on Sitting Bull that may be found in the larger libraries.

## CHAPTER XXVI

### NUMBER ONE HARD

WITH wholesome laws and no further fear of Indian outbreaks the growth of the new state was rapid. The census of 1890 showed a population of 182,719 in North Dakota. This was a time of great immigration and many of the home seekers from foreign lands came to North Dakota.

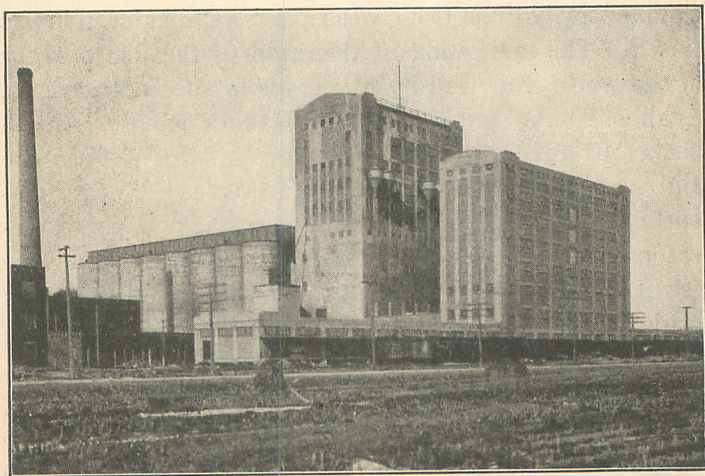
The severe winter of 1890 and 1891 was followed by a season that produced a great wheat crop. On new soil, comparatively free from weeds, a "bumper crop" was raised. The marketing of this crop of the finest wheat in the world, followed by like crops in succeeding years, established the fame of North Dakota as the "bread basket of the world." Great elevators for the storage and handling of this wheat were erected at every important market-place in North Dakota, and these elevators became the most conspicuous objects in every town. The erection of great flour mills at Minneapolis made it the "flour city" and established it as the trade center for the new Northwest.

This was the day of the "bonanza farm,"—meaning several sections of land managed as a single farm. As early as 1857 the Dalrymples, members of a family who had become wealthy in Pennsylvania, had acquired considerable land along the Northern Pacific grant in Cass



County, and in 1875 had made a beginning of wheat raising on a large scale. "Land scrip" could be secured at a low price and several other companies or individuals bought large tracts of land. Among these the Grandin Farm, the farm of Rand & Brown in Traill County, the Antelope, the Cleveland, the Keystone, the Dwight, the Downing, and the Adams farms in Richland County became well known. These farms were great business enterprises, organized and equipped for wheat raising on a large scale, and in the days when wheat and small grains were sure crops they yielded a good profit on the investment. The owners were people in the East who employed a manager and through him received reports of the enterprise and their dividends.

The manager hired a small army of men and maintained



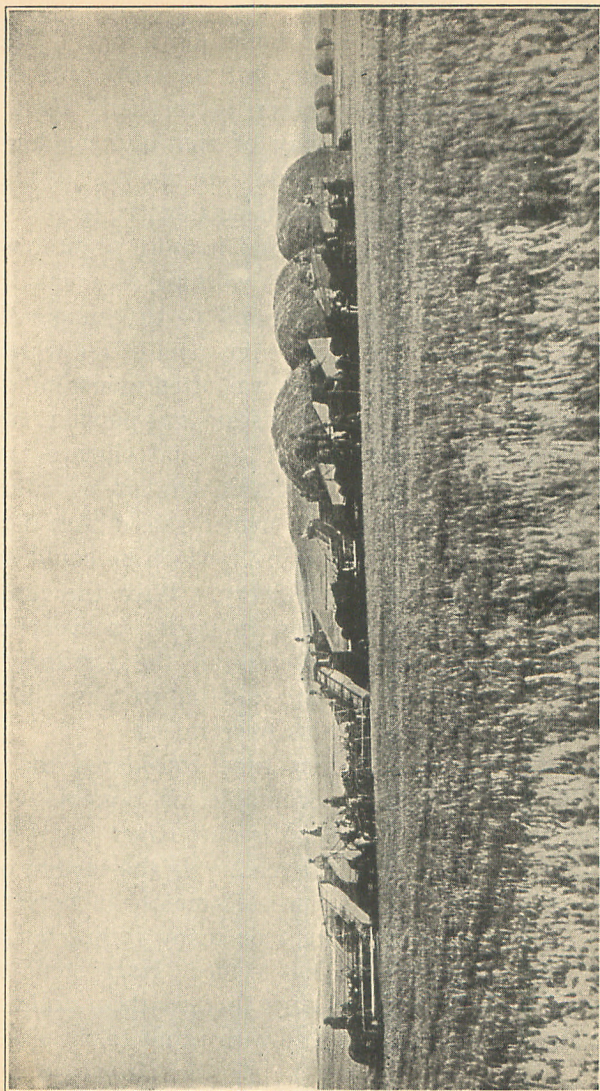
A MILL AND ELEVATOR IN NORTH DAKOTA

the outfit of machinery and mules or horses. There was always an orderly system, but the work was done on a large scale. Pictures taken in the early days on these farms show a great array of men and machinery working together in one huge field. In one case as many as twenty-two binders are shown cutting six sections of wheat. The good managers found it more profitable to have a smaller number of outfits working as a unit, but the large scale production appealed to the imagination and was conducive to the social enjoyment of the workers in a time when life on the plains was often monotonous.

The doing of work on a large scale was popular, especially because the conditions of soil and climate made large scale production more profitable than intensive farming. The amount of crop a farmer raised was determined by the number of acres over which he could hold dominion with his farm machinery. With the prairie sod removed, grain would grow of itself; so everybody hustled for ninety days, covered all the territory he could with his seed, and time and nature gave him a crop. Wheat and small grains were raised.

North Dakota was at that time considered too far north for corn to be a profitable or possible crop, although the Indians on the Missouri River had raised corn for more than a hundred years. In the eastern part of the state, farm animals consisted mainly of horses or mules. A few cows were kept on many farms, but the day of the creamery had not come. Hogs could not profitably be kept without corn to feed them and they were thought too heavy to ship with profit to the distant markets. Sheep were almost a curiosity. It was so much





HARVEST SCENE NEAR MANDAN

more satisfactory to raise large fields of grain that many preferred to buy their potatoes and butter from the stores. The one-crop-a-year plan made it convenient for the farmer to pay his accounts in the fall, and the merchants had to extend large credits and wait for settlement until threshing time. This necessitated generous loans of eastern capital each year to finance the farmer and the business man over the time of threshing and marketing the grain.

Good crops tended to better financial conditions. Families who had become established began to think of better living conditions, and to build more comfortable homes to replace the claim shacks of pioneer days. For some years, however, it seemed to be the people from foreign lands who considered this state their permanent dwelling place. To many of the people from the older states the new country appealed as a good place to make money rapidly so that they could live in comfort in some other place when they were ready to retire.

This attitude led to temporary construction and speculative values. The effect was noticeable in the cities, and cities remained small in population compared to those of older states. Fargo, the largest town, had about ten thousand people; Grand Forks, seven thousand; and Bismarck, a little over three thousand. Only a few cities could boast of brick buildings, and up to 1895 only two cities had done any paving of streets. Fire-fighting devices were limited to such as could be operated by hand. In early June of 1893 fire broke out in Fargo and was not controlled until it had swept the business portion of the city and had made many people



homeless. This fire was a blessing in disguise, as the city was immediately rebuilt in more beautiful and substantial form.

West of the Missouri River it was still the day of the ranchman and the cattleman. The abundant prairie



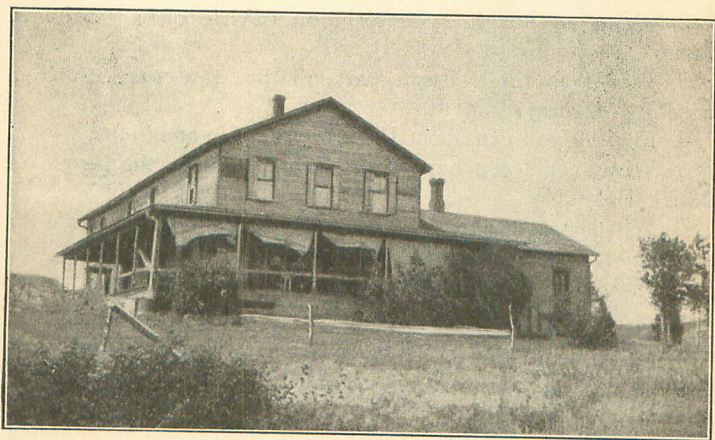
*Photo by Miss Mallory*

REMAINS OF THE PACKING PLANT OF THE  
MARQUIS DE MORES, NEAR MEDORA

grass made the raising of great herds of cattle easy. It had been the custom of the Texas cattlemen, after the days of the Civil War, to range their cattle northward and market them at some good shipping point. Some of these herds came as far north as the old buffalo ranges in North Dakota. Great herds were soon acquired by ranchmen in the state. Dickinson, the center of the ranching region, was a great shipping point and was said to be the wealthiest city per capita in the state.

A great cattleman from the great ranges of the Southwest is said to have paid the Northern Pacific agent at Dickinson about \$90,000 for freight charges in a single year, most of which was for the shipment of his cattle to eastern markets. The northwestern part of the state was also a fine cattle country. Minot, founded in the early nineties as a city of tents and tepees, soon became noted as a stock shipping point. Williston became well known as a clearing place for the stock industry.

The hard times of 1893, which affected the whole country, brought economic depression to the new state; but the settlers had come to secure homes and remained, with faith in the future. The year 1895 brought one of the greatest crops in the history of the state. The price was low, much of the wheat bringing only forty cents a bushel, but with returning confidence, prosperity again



*Courtesy of G. R. Osterhout*

THE CHATEAU OF THE MARQUIS DE MORES, NEAR MEDORA



smiled on the new state and a steady growth continued.

Before this depression there had been a time of railroad extension. The Great Northern had built its line to the Pacific Coast, and both it and the Northern Pacific built several branch lines in the state. The Minneapolis, St. Paul and Sault Ste. Marie Railway completed its line across the state from Fairmount to Portal where it united with the Canadian Pacific and made the third transcontinental line through North Dakota. Along with improved railroad facilities came improvement in wagon roads and other means of communication like the telephone. A better appreciation of the new Northwest was gained and more people began to plan permanent homes.

#### SUGGESTED TOPICS

1. Describe a claim shack. What was a homestead?
2. Write an imaginary description of life on a "bonanza farm."
3. Why was the western part of the state particularly a ranching country?
4. Find all you can about De More and his ambitions.
5. Why should the hard times of 1893 affect the people of North Dakota?
6. What brought about the change in attitude which made the settlers want to remain in North Dakota?
7. In 1895 how old were the towns mentioned in this chapter?

**References.**—Collections of the State Historical Society of North Dakota; Newspapers and Diaries of the time; *The North Dakota Record*.

## ✓ CHAPTER XXVII

### POLITICS AND GROWTH

ONLY three sessions of the territorial Legislature were held at Bismarck. Nehemiah G. Ordway was the territorial Governor when the capital was removed to Bismarck. Governor Pierce and Governor Church served at Bismarck, and Arthur C. Mellette was Governor for only a few months before statehood. William Jayne, the first governor of Dakota Territory, and Newton Edmunds, his successor, were appointed by President Lincoln and were the "war governors" of the territory. These governors were followed in turn by Andrew J. Faulk, John A. Burbank, John L. Pennington, and William A. Howard, who was succeeded by Governor Ordway in 1880.

John Miller, the first Governor of the new state, served only the short term from November 3, 1889, to January 6, 1891. He had made a good record but he declined a reelection. Andrew H. Burke was elected Governor, and M. N. Johnson was elected Representative in Congress. H. C. Hansboro, who had been the first Representative, was elected Senator to succeed Gilbert A. Pierce, one of the former territorial Governors, who had drawn the short term in the Legislature of the preceding year.

This Legislature asked the Governor to appoint a



commission to compile the new laws of the state. The commission discovered that in making so many laws for the new state the first Legislature had made no provision for the election of presidential electors. In order that the people of the state might take part in the election of a President in 1892, a special session of the Legislature was called. This session met June 1, 1891, and framed a law by which the state could select three presidential electors. The law permitted choosing any three men for electors instead of voting for the three candidates of one party. The result was a divided state, as each of the three leading candidates for President received one of the electoral votes of North Dakota. Afterward, the law was changed so that each voter cast his ballot for the entire list of presidential electors nominated by his party.

The coming of hard times in the depression of the early 90's gave strength to the Populist party, which wanted cheaper money, and the Populists swept the state in 1892. Eli C. D. Shortridge, a Democrat, was elected Governor by the help of the Populist vote. In the Legislature of this administration there was a United States Senator to be elected, as the term of Lyman R. Casey was to expire. A stormy situation arose, resulting in the election of Wm. N. Roach, a Democrat. Money was appropriated for the south wing of the Capitol building, and about the usual appropriations made without much consideration for the hard times.

In the election of 1894, Roger Allin was made Governor. He found the state treasury exhausted. The people were unable to pay their taxes, and the appropriations of

the preceding administration had caused a heavy indebtedness. Realizing the imperative need for strict economy, Governor Allin vetoed many of the appropriation bills and was strongly censured.

Unfortunately, the Governor thought it necessary to veto the appropriations for the University, the Agricultural College, and the two normal schools at Valley City and Mayville. In order to keep these schools in operation private subscriptions were asked. In this way all four institutions were kept open, and the teachers stayed by their posts with little salary and small prospect that full salaries would ever be paid. For the University \$24,513.90 was secured from private sources, \$1,287.50 of which came from people outside the state. Receipts and certificates for this money were issued with the understanding that the state would at some time pay back these subscriptions; but as no one has ever succeeded in convincing the Legislature that this is a state debt, the certificates have never been redeemed.

In the election of 1894 the people ratified at the polls the first amendment to the state constitution. It had been passed by the first and second Legislative Assemblies and received a strong vote from the people. It forbade the authorization of lotteries or any enterprise of the nature of a lottery. The second amendment, which changed the voter's qualifications, requiring that he be a full citizen instead of having declared his intention of becoming a citizen, was passed at a later election. These were the only two amendments made in the first ten years of statehood.

Governor Allin served only one term. In the



notable campaign of 1896 Frank Briggs was elected Governor. The hard times had made many people think that money could be made more easily. Free silver was favored by the Populist party, and was therefore readily espoused by a large number of voters. The Republicans, now again in possession of the state, were determined to hold the state government for their party, and a great "campaign of education" was carried on for months. Tons of literature were distributed in the state. Both the Republican and Democratic candidates made speaking tours, and many speakers of national reputation were sent into the state by the national committee. In the election the Republicans were victorious, and the three electoral votes went to William McKinley.

Governor Briggs was in poor health. In the hope of recovery he went to the milder climate of the west, but died in July, 1898, having been in active service about a year. Joseph M. Devine, the Lieutenant-Governor, who had been acting for Governor Briggs in his absence, became Governor for the remainder of the term. A more thorough system of taxation was the legislative achievement of this administration.

In the election of 1898, Frederick B. Fancher was elected Governor. Mr. Fancher, a resident of Jamestown, had been president of the constitutional convention in 1889. He proved a popular candidate but was not nominated for a second term. No Governor so far had served more than one term. In Governor Fancher's administration the twine and cordage plant was established in the penitentiary to furnish employment for those prisoners who could not well be employed on

the farm of the penitentiary. The Legislature of his term had to elect a United States Senator to succeed William N. Roach. Senator Hansboro had been reelected without sensational developments in the session of 1897. The election of 1898 developed into a stern contest. There were many "favorite sons." M. N. Johnson had represented the state in Congress for four terms, but was succeeded in 1899 by Burleigh F. Spaulding. Mr. Johnson's friends wished to send him to the Senate. There were several other "first choices." Porter J. McCumber had been a prominent attorney at Wahpeton, and had many friends over the state, but at first had not enough support to win the election against so many candidates. After it became apparent that no one of the "favorite sons" could be elected by any combination that was acceptable the sentiment swung to McCumber as the best available man. He was elected and filled the position for twenty-four years, leaving the Senate in 1923.

#### SUGGESTED TOPICS

1. How may an extra session of the Legislature be held?
2. When has there been another extra session of the Legislative Assembly of North Dakota? Why was this called?
3. Look up the method of electing a President of the United States.
4. Why should private citizens contribute to the support of state schools?
5. How are the higher institutions of the state endowed?
6. What are the advantages of maintaining industries in the state penitentiary? What industries are now carried on there?

**References.**—*Public Documents of North Dakota*; Journals of the House and Senate of the Legislative Assembly.



## CHAPTER XXVIII

### IN THE PHILIPPINES

THE people of North Dakota took deep interest in the affairs in Cuba. When Senator Thurston's report of conditions on that unfortunate island was made public they were ready to take up the cause of humanity even if it meant war, for they were a people who appreciated freedom and were never tolerant of oppression.

A national guard had been organized in the northern part of the territory of Dakota on January 31, 1885. This was reorganized in 1890 as the First Regiment of the North Dakota National Guard. About 1896 renewed interest was taken in the organization, and a regiment of eight companies, making up the First and Second Battalions, was recruited to fairly good strength. These eight companies were: Companies A of Bismarck, B of Fargo, G of Valley City, and H of Jamestown, composing the First Battalion; Companies C of Grafton, D of Devils Lake, I of Wahpeton, and K of Dickinson, making up the Second Battalion.

When war with Spain was declared and President McKinley issued his first call for volunteers, April 23, 1898, Governor Fancher offered North Dakota's quota. The National Guard was mobilized in three days and mustered into the service of the United States as the First North Dakota, on April 26, 1898. Several of the members of the National Guard were men with families

and some were over the age at which the army wished to take them into service. The places of these men were promptly taken by volunteers. The quota called from North Dakota, being assigned to the state according to population, was small; and a great many young men who wanted to enlist were of necessity turned away. A great number found opportunity for service by enlisting in the regular army, by joining Grigsby's cowboys to become the famous Rough Riders, or by enlisting in outside units. However, many were disappointed and were left at home.

The regiment went into the mobilization camp, known as Camp Briggs, at Fargo, May 1. Some time was spent in drilling and completing the organization of the regiment. It was expected that the fighting in the war would be done in the West Indies and many regiments were sent to the southeastern part of the United States to embark for Cuba or wherever needed; but Commodore Dewey's naval victory of Manila Bay, on May 1, opened a field for fighting in a new part of the world for United States troops. It very soon became apparent that the conquest so auspiciously begun by the navy must be followed up by the army. Orders came to move the North Dakota regiment westward to San Francisco. They entrained at Fargo, May 20, 1898, with Colonel W. C. Trueman of Grafton in command and Dr. Frank D. Pease of Wahpeton as surgeon. At the Presidio they became fellow soldiers with the troops from Kansas, the Tenth Pennsylvania, the Thirteenth Minnesota, the First South Dakota, and some regiments from other western states.



On June 27, the First North Dakota embarked upon the third fleet of transports, under the command of General MacArthur. They landed at the Hawaiian Islands for a brief rest and reached Manila Bay on July 31. The landing was extremely difficult. The transport could not get nearer than five miles to the desired landing place, so the troops had to be brought off in small steamers. There were severe squalls and heavy rains. The men were supplied with shelter tents only, and they suffered many discomforts from the fierce heat of the sun and the heavy tropical rains which come at that season of the year.

Much unpreparedness on the part of the government was shown. A whole generation had passed since the nation had been involved in war, and war brought about an unexpected state of affairs. The food was bad, there was a great lack of ammunition and tents and of suitable clothing; in fact, many of the boys entered Manila in August in citizen's clothes because the government was not prepared to outfit an army on such short notice. It was at this time that the government was planning to change the uniform to the new style and to the khaki color, so the uniforms were delayed. These handicaps, however, served to show the quality of the North Dakota boys.

As a part of General MacArthur's Brigade the regiment served in the Philippines under General Overshine and General Henry W. Lawton. The First North Dakota saw some of the hardest service of the campaign. In the attack on Manila, August 13, their brigade was on the right, about one-half mile inland along

the Pasay road. The First North Dakota participated in the fight around Blockhouse No. 13. There was stubborn fighting over swampy ground which had a heavy undergrowth of tropical vegetation, and some casualties were suffered. It is interesting to note that this battle occurred on the day after the protocol had been signed, but the cables were cut and there was no means of getting the news to Manila in time to prevent more fighting.

The Spaniards had bribed Aguinaldo, the Filipino leader, to leave the islands; but when Commodore Dewey left Chinese waters for the attack on Manila he took Aguinaldo back with him to organize a native insurrection which would help the Americans. The insurgents took an active part in the siege and capture of Manila, but friction arose between the insurgents and the American officers. In the attempt to assert American sovereignty over the natives, war broke out and raged for two years.

On August 13, 1898, the First North Dakota took part in the fighting at Fort San Antonio, where one of their number was killed. From this time until May of the next year, the North Dakota regiment, in part or as a whole, took part in thirty-six engagements during the Filipino uprising.

The regiment was sent out with General Lawton, who, as a regular army man, was displeased that he had to take volunteers. But at the end of the first day he was satisfied with their hiking, and on the second day he was pleased with their fighting ability and true soldierly spirit. They won the reputation of keeping their wits and of doing effective service. The First North Dakota went



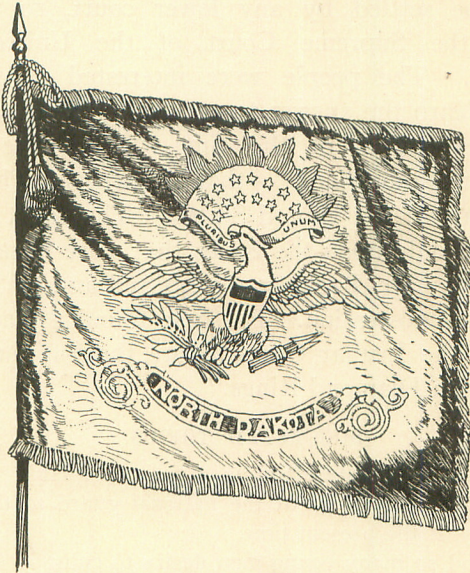
farther into the interior of the islands than any other volunteer regiment. They made the campaign northward from Manila under Generals Lawton and Funston. Probably their stiffest engagement was at Paete on April 12, 1899, where five were killed and two seriously wounded.

After serving in the Philippines for almost a year, the regiment returned to the United States in the summer of 1899, was mustered out of the United States Army at San Francisco, and returned to the state in the autumn. The soldiers found a royal welcome; every town from which a company had gone gave a special day to a "welcome home." Congress passed resolutions of appreciation for their excellent record and splendid service.

It was in the Philippines that the state flag received its baptism of fire. The origin of the flag is not known, although it had been used on one or more occasions before the Spanish War. Except for a slight change in the wording, the flag of the state at the present time is the same as the one used in the Philippines. It passed through thirty-seven engagements in the Filipino insurrection.

One of the members of the First North Dakota was instrumental in hastening some important court decisions upon the status of the new island possessions. Mr. Emil Pepke was cook in Company I. Instead of spending his money carelessly as most of the boys did, he saved his pay and increased his earnings by lending money at interest. He had opportunity to buy at bargain prices several diamond rings, and as this was a safer means of carrying his savings he brought these

home with him. Thinking it was a matter of no concern to any one, even the customs officer, that he should bring home some rings, he passed his baggage through the inspection at San Francisco, was discharged, and returned to North Dakota. Later, he went to his former



THE STATE FLAG OF NORTH DAKOTA

home in Illinois, and needing some money he took some of his rings to a Chicago dealer. The possession of so many valuable rings naturally raised inquiry. Mr. Pepke's explanation was not satisfactory to the jeweler and the District Attorney was notified. The rings were confiscated and Mr. Pepke arrested for smuggling through the customs office property that was subject to a duty. Mr. Pepke's attorney claimed that his client



had purchased these rings after the signing of the protocol; consequently the Islands were a part of the United States, and a citizen had the right to take his property from one part of the country to another without paying duty. The case involved too great a principle to be settled by any lower court, so the case went to the Supreme Court of the United States on appeal. The people were interested as they expected to learn the answer to an inquiry much discussed in the newspapers of the time, "Does the Constitution follow the Flag?"—that is, are the Philippines really a part of the United States? The court as usual pronounced only upon the issues that were raised by the controversy. Mr. Pepke was acquitted and his rings restored to his possession. The case found a place in the records of the Insular Cases before the Supreme Court as "Fourteen Diamond Rings."

#### SUGGESTED TOPICS

1. Why should a state maintain a national guard?
2. Look up the relation of the national guard to the United States Army at the present time.
3. Why did so many young men desire to enlist in 1898?
4. Find what you can about the Rough Riders.
5. Why had the cables to Manila been cut in 1898?
6. What were the causes of the Filipino Insurrection?
7. Ask some Spanish War veteran to tell you about his experience in the Philippines.

**References.**—*North Dakota Blue Book*; a good history of the United States; articles by General Funston in *Scribner's Magazine*, Vol. 50.

## CHAPTER XXIX

### A DECADE OF DISAPPEARING FRONTIERS

THE ten years from 1900 to 1910 was a period of great growth and expansion in North Dakota. The population of the state increased from 319,146 in 1900 to 577,056 in 1910. The unoccupied homestead lands were attractive, the country at large was enjoying prosperity, and farmers of the states farther east were able to sell their farms in parts of the country where land was higher in price and obtain larger holdings in the new Northwest. An Illinois or Iowa farmer could sell his home, and with the proceeds he could locate himself and his sons on good farms in the same neighborhood in North Dakota. Hundreds of these land seekers went through the state to the Canadian Northwest, but North Dakota received a large number of new citizens.

At the first of the period wheat was the great crop, but corn and livestock received more and more attention. The impetus toward corn raising at this time was greatly stimulated by county corn-growing contests encouraged by the county superintendents and the Agricultural College. By 1910 corn had become a staple crop, and the hog as a "mortgage lifter" had won merited respect.

The change from small grain farming to the diversified type was hastened by the appearance of black rust, a parasitic disease that attacked the stem of the wheat



and arrested the growth and development of the crop. This appeared in 1904, when what promised to be a "bumper" crop was practically destroyed in a few days of July and August. Beginning in the southern and southeastern parts of the state, the rust plague extended very generally throughout the entire state. Since that year, black rust has appeared to some extent every year and has been a calamity in some parts of the state several times. Many consider it a blessing in disguise, for it has driven the farmers to resort to diversified farming.

The first decade of the nineteenth century was a period of great expositions held to celebrate the centennial of important events or the completion of great enterprises. North Dakota participated in the Louisiana Purchase Exposition at St. Louis in 1904. The Roosevelt cabin was taken to pieces on the old Chimney Butte ranch near Medora and taken to this exposition. Later it was put up on the capitol grounds at Bismarck (p. 124). Portland had the Lewis and Clark Exposition in 1905, and Seattle had an exposition in 1909. At the Seattle Exposition, an excellent display was made of the grains and grasses, the pottery, and lignite of North Dakota. A placard which attracted much attention read: "North Dakota has more wealth per capita than any other state in the Union; it has no millionaires and no paupers."

This period was also a time of great railroad expansion in the state. The Great Northern and the Northern Pacific, with some other lines not in the state, effected a merger by placing their stock in the Northern Securities Company, a holding company organized as a trust for the combined roads. This merger would

have placed the two greatest lines of railroad in the state under a single management. People were afraid it would mean too much monopoly, and the merger was attacked in the federal courts where it was declared illegal and finally dissolved.<sup>1</sup> Several extensions and branch lines were constructed by both of these roads. The Soo Line was built into Bismarck from the south-east and from that city to the main line at Drake, and a little later the "Wheat Line" was built across the northern part of the state from Thief River Falls, Minnesota, to Kenmare on the main line. The Chicago, Milwaukee and Puget Sound, across the southwestern part of the state, was a part of the fourth transcontinental line to go through North Dakota. The New England branch was extended into the state at a later time.

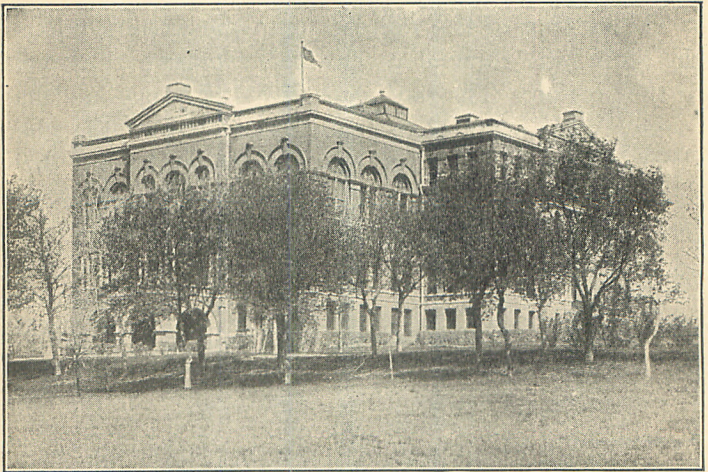
The coming of the railroads into the western part of the state was coincident with the extensive settlement of that region. The ranchman with free range land had to give way to the homesteader, and most of the great ranches disappeared. The new counties of Adams, Bowman, Hettinger, Dunn, and McKenzie were organized, the Sioux Reservation was thrown open to settlement, and no part of the state was left as unorganized territory.

With the expansion of the state there naturally arose several questions, and among them was that of providing for the larger number of students who wished to attend the higher institutions of the state. As the debt

<sup>1</sup> The new company was to have the combined business management of all these roads, as their trustee, making one great organization instead of several separate ones. The Constitution of North Dakota forbade such a combination of competing companies.



limit of the state was only two hundred thousand dollars and that amount of indebtedness had already been incurred, some ways and means for financing new buildings had to be devised. As nearly all the institutions had a portion of the Congressional land grant and much of it remained unsold, the Legislature passed a measure which permitted the issue of bonds by the schools, pledging the income from their land grants as security. Following this plan the Normal School at Valley City prepared and sold to the Board of University and School Lands an issue of \$60,000 worth of bonds. When the warrant for these bonds was presented to the State Treasurer he refused payment on the grounds that they were not legal, as they were an item of state indebtedness and exceeded the debt limit,

*Finney's Daily Photo Service*

THE CAPITOL

and their payment was not properly provided for and guaranteed. The Supreme Court of the state upheld the theory of the State Treasurer and none of the schools could secure money for buildings by this plan.

In 1905 the north wing of the capitol building was constructed. An attempt was later made to secure a new capitol building, keeping this new wing, used for offices and for the chamber of the House of Representatives, as a part of the new building. The Congressional land grant provided for the erection of a capitol building and other state buildings related to the capitol by giving fifty sections of the public lands for this purpose. The later law, authorizing the erection of a new capitol building, was attacked in the courts and found unconstitutional; so the old capitol building, parts of which were erected in 1883, in 1895, and 1905, has been used for some time.

That the people were not lacking in proper public sentiment is shown in the adoption of a state flower by the Legislative Assembly of 1907. Blossoming in profusion all over the state is the flower that is so fittingly called the Wild Prairie Rose. It is indeed the emblem of the pioneer. It had blossomed here during countless ages when the buffalo and the Indian were the sovereigns, and it was here to greet the hardy settler as a reminder of his old home and as a promise of the better and more prosperous days of peace and plenty in store for the pioneer who dared and conquered. No more fitting floral emblem of a great prairie state could be found than this modest little flower which thrives so well in the rich prairie soil.



Up to this time no governor had served more than a single term. In the election of 1900, Frank White, a popular officer in the Philippine campaign, was elected; and he was reëlected in 1902. In Governor White's administration an electric railway line, owned and operated by the state, was authorized to run from the capitol to the penitentiary. This road was built through part of the town but was never extended to the penitentiary.

Governor White was succeeded in 1904 by E. Y. Sarles. In the Legislature of this administration a Board of Capitol Commissioners was constituted for the purpose of reconstructing the Capitol and building a Governor's mansion. The amount to be expended was not to exceed \$600,000. Some of the citizens of the state were dissatisfied with the extensive powers given to the commission, and the law authorizing this commission was attacked in the courts. The Supreme Court decided the law was unconstitutional on the grounds that the amount of money allowed for the project would exceed the debt limit, and that the provision made to pay the expense of building, from the sale of state lands, was inadequate.

In the election of 1906, John Burke, a Democrat, was elected Governor. Burke had made an excellent record in his law practice. He made a popular Governor and was three times elected. He felt that the state officers should be on hand at the Capitol and succeeded in getting them to reside in Bismarck.

Several amendments to the state constitution were made in the years from 1900 to 1910. The Second Amendment,

passed in 1898, was for the purpose of requiring full citizenship before one could vote in North Dakota. By the Third Amendment a pardon board was formed to place the power of granting pardons in the hands of four others with the Governor. Amendment Four dealt with the assessment of property. Both the Third and Fourth Amendments were passed in the election of 1900. In 1904 the Deaf and Dumb School was located at Devils Lake and a school for the feeble-minded at Grafton; also Amendment Seven, on the taxation of grain in elevators, was passed in the election of 1904. An amendment, designated as Seven A, was passed in the election of 1906 regarding the investment of school funds. This same topic was considered in Amendment Eight in 1908. Amendment Nine, fixing the minimum price of state lands, was passed in this year, and also Amendment Ten, which increased the number of judges of the Supreme Court from three to five. In 1910 the method of sale of school lands was changed by Amendment Eleven, and by Amendment Twelve a State Normal School was located at Minot.

In Congress, Mr. Spaulding was succeeded in 1900 by Thomas F. Marshall. By the census of 1900, North Dakota was entitled to two Representatives in Congress, and Marshall and Spaulding were elected in 1902. Then Marshall and A. J. Gronna served two terms, and in 1908 L. B. Hanna took Mr. Marshall's place in Congress. When, in 1911, Mr. Gronna was elected to the Senate, Mr. Hanna and Mr. H. T. Helgeson were elected Representatives.

Experiments in political theory and practice were



begun in the new state in these years. The first primary election law was passed in 1905, applying at this time only to county officers, but extended soon to include the state officers. A progressive element had developed in the Republican party which was not satisfied to have a circle of North Dakota politicians hold meetings outside the state and attempt to dictate the party's policy. The refusal of the members of this element, popularly called "Insurgents," to support the candidates of the "powers," resulted in the election of a Democrat to the Governor's chair, in a staunch Republican state. Furthermore, that Governor was kept in office for three consecutive terms, a record service in this position.

#### SUGGESTED TOPICS

1. Look up the location of the railroads mentioned in the text. What lines parallel each other?
2. Why should a state be interested in expositions such as those at St. Louis, Portland, and Seattle?
3. Find more information about our state flower and the state flag.
4. What is a "primary election"? How many primary elections do we have in North Dakota, and when do they come?
5. What is the debt limit of the state at the present time?

**References.**—Young, *Government of North Dakota and the Nation*; *North Dakota Blue Book*; *Election Laws of North Dakota* (a pamphlet).

## CHAPTER XXX

### ONE OF THE FORTY-EIGHT

FROM 1900 to 1910 people looking for homes found an open door in North Dakota. In the following years the state became better known by its activities and its participation in the events of the times. Its part in the World War as well as in the uncertain years of reconstruction, its clashes on state policies, and its experiments in political theories have won recognition for the state of North Dakota. Its statesmen at Washington have had an active part in national politics, and for more than ten years North Dakota has furnished the Treasurer of the United States. At the "Governors' Conferences" in which many questions of national interest were taken up for consideration governors of North Dakota took an active part. In 1912 Governor Burke received the solid support of the North Dakota delegation for the nomination for the Presidency of the United States in the Democratic National Convention at Baltimore.

The battleship *North Dakota* was launched in 1909 from the yards of the Fore River Shipbuilding Company, near Quincy, Massachusetts. The christening ceremony was performed by Miss Mary Benton of Fargo. This battleship, which cost \$10,000,000, is fully armored and equipped. It is 510 feet long, and carries a crew of



900 officers and men. Contributions for the "silver service" of the battleship were solicited from the people of the state with the suggestion that each contribute one dollar. Not enough was raised in this way, but later the balance was raised by private subscription and the silver service was presented to the battleship on May 5, 1915.

In 1912 a large party of European geographers crossed the continent in a special train. This party, escorted by a number of American geographers, made a visit to the Bad Lands around Medora. Since both foreign and American scientists were interested in the historical places and peoples of our country, a number of bronchos, or western ponies, were secured and the party visited the old ranch house of Theodore Roosevelt.

The fiftieth anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg was celebrated at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, on July 1, 2, and 3, 1913. The Legislature appropriated funds which enabled the veterans of North Dakota to attend the celebration. Governor Hanna joined the party, and several days were spent on the famous field.

The people of North Dakota have shown great interest in honoring noted men of the old world. In 1911 a bust of Björnson was presented to the city of Fargo and was installed in Island Park. A bust of Wergeland was placed on the campus of the Agricultural College. In 1912 a bust of Henrik Ibsen was presented to the State Science School at Wahpeton and placed with due ceremony on a granite pedestal on the campus. The year 1913 was the thousandth anniversary of the founding of Normandy in the North of France. A statue of Rollo

was donated by the people of Normandy to the city of Fargo, and was erected on the station grounds of the Great Northern Railway.

As a complimentary return to these expressions of good will, the people of the state contributed funds for the making of a bust of Lincoln to be presented to the people of Norway. This bust was made by Mr. Paul Fjelde, the young North Dakota sculptor who had made the Ibsen bust. A party of North Dakota people, headed by Governor Hanna, went to Norway. On July 4, 1914, in the park at Christiania (now Oslo) the bust of Lincoln was presented to the people of Norway in an address made by Hon. Smith Stimmel, of Fargo, one of the surviving members of Lincoln's bodyguard at the time of the Civil War. The speech of acceptance was made by the President of the Storthing, and speeches were made by Governor Hanna and others.

It was during this revival of interest in the early history of North Dakota that a memorial to the Indian guide of the expedition of Lewis and Clark was erected at our state capital (p. 40). A statue to Sakakawea at the Portland Exposition in 1905 inspired the people of North Dakota to pay tribute in a similar manner. The Women's Clubs and the school children of the state took the matter in hand and raised by small gifts a fund to purchase an appropriate statue. This movement was inaugurated in 1906. The Legislature of 1909 appropriated funds to pay for the pedestal and gave a suitable site on the state house grounds. The statue, of heroic size, was dedicated in October, 1910.

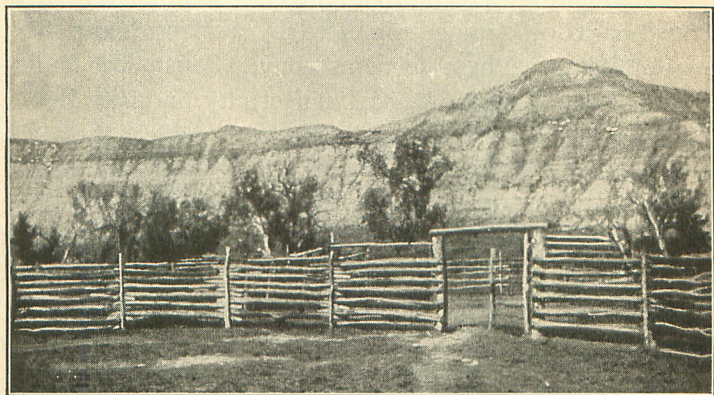
A thorough study of the soils and resources of the



state was made, particularly of the effects of wheat growing upon the soil, and the one-crop method of agriculture. The reports showed diminished yields and a depletion of fertility as a result of taking large amounts of plant fertility from the soil each year without sufficient return to maintain the highest yield. It was thought that these reports had a detrimental effect upon the credit of the state with those who were financing the farming interests. A group of people interested in this matter determined to counteract the effects of these reports and restore the credit of the state by showing that the farmers could maintain good crop yields by proper handling of the soil. The Better Farming movement was organized, and in coöperation with the government at Washington and with the Agricultural College, county agents were established in several counties of the state. This movement encouraged better crop rotation, better live stock, and general diversified farming. Methods of conserving the plant foods of the soil were studied. Better crops resulted and larger incomes for the farmers followed. This led to better living conditions and a better appreciation of the resources of the state. The credit of the state was restored and the foundation laid for the most successful and most prosperous farming in the nation. Renewed interest was taken in the coal deposits and in the pottery clays, and it was discovered that North Dakota had much to offer the citizen who came to live on its soil.

The Standing Rock Indian Reservation had recently been opened to white homesteaders. In 1912 the Fort Berthold Reservation (that part of it lying east of the

Missouri River) was thrown open to settlement, and many incoming settlers found homesteads there. Several new counties were organized from the territory of other counties. These included Mountrail, Renville, Burke, Sheridan, and Divide counties, and a little later Golden Valley, Slope, Sioux, and Grant counties.



*Photo by Miss Frances Mallory*

A RANCH CORRAL IN THE BAD LANDS

North Dakota had a building and a splendid exhibit of its products at the Panama-Pacific Exposition at San Francisco, in 1915. The exhibit called attention to the state, and the interest aroused in this way was followed up through the activities of a Commissioner of Immigration at the Capitol. The commission sent out literature and in many cases personal representatives to interview prospective settlers from the older states.

When Henry Ford undertook to "get the boys out of the trenches before Christmas" in 1915, he sent an invitation to Governor Hanna to go to Europe with his



party. The Governor consented, and in this unsuccessful mission made his second trip across the ocean while he was Governor.

These years were a time of prosperity, which was shown not only by the improvements in private property, on the farms and in the cities, but also in the public buildings erected. Eighteen counties built new courthouses on a plan submitted by a Minneapolis firm of architects. These serve as commodious office buildings. They have a general uniformity in plan but a pleasing variety in the material from which they are constructed. A number of cities built beautiful public buildings and many undertook to pave their streets. Many large schoolhouses of modern type were erected in the towns and in the country where the consolidated and graded schools were becoming deservedly popular.

The Society of Equity, established in 1907, was organized in North Dakota in 1913. The main purpose of the society was to organize associations for the farmers and other people who had products to market, so that coöperation could be maintained in the marketing of grain and produce. This organization has done a good work in securing better marketing conditions and in helping the farmers to get their produce to market at the time for best results. It has not quite satisfied all people but it has maintained its organization through the trying years of the war and reconstruction.

An unusual event in the history of the state occurred in the late winter of 1911. Charges were preferred against one of the district judges of the state courts,

and the House of Representatives of the Twelfth Legislative Assembly voted to impeach him. The trial before the Senate was opened on March 28 and continued until May 4. On one count, that of frequenting a drug store for the purpose of unlawfully obtaining intoxicating liquor and frequently drinking intoxicating liquor in that drug store, the vote of the Senators was a tie. On the other counts he was acquitted by the Senate sitting as a High Court of Impeachment. The complete journal of this impeachment was published in two volumes containing 2546 closely printed pages. The trial cost the state about \$60,000. It is the only impeachment trial in the history of the state and one of only a few in the United States.

Several amendments to the constitution of the state were passed in these years. In 1912 two amendments were passed, one of them authorizing the state to build and operate a terminal elevator in Minnesota or Wisconsin. In the election of 1914 there were six amendments ratified. One of these authorized the state to build or buy and operate a terminal elevator within the state. Another dealt with the initiative and referendum. In 1916 a state normal school was located at Dickinson, and a second asylum for the insane was authorized, the location to be determined by a vote of the people. The vote at a later election located this asylum at Rugby, but the Legislature has not voted (1925) the appropriations needed for opening this institution.

Governor Burke served for three terms, and in the election of 1912, Mr. L. B. Hanna was elected Governor. Governor Hanna had served two terms in Congress and was recognized as a good business man. By the census



of 1910, North Dakota was entitled to three Representatives in Congress. Prior to this time the two Representatives were elected at large, but the Legislature in 1911 divided the state into three Congressional districts. Mr. Helgeson, whose home was in the First District, was elected there. Mr. George M. Young of Valley City was elected in the Second District and Mr. P. D. Norton of Hettinger in the Third District. These men were re-elected in 1914.

In 1909 the term of United States Senator Hansbrough expired. The primary election plan had been adopted, and after a very spirited campaign Mr. Martin N. Johnson, who had represented the state in Congress for eight years, was elected Senator. Mr. Johnson died October 21, 1909, and Governor Burke appointed Fountain L. Thompson to fill the vacancy. Mr. Thompson served only two months in the Senate, when he resigned on account of ill health. Governor Burke then appointed Wm. E. Purcell of Wahpeton until such time as the vacancy could be filled by election. The appointment of Mr. Purcell gave the state both Senators from the same city, in fact from the same ward and same street of that city. Mr. Purcell served in the Senate for the space of one year, and was succeeded by Asla J. Gronna, who was elected to fill the vacancy. Mr. Gronna was reelected for the regular term in 1915.

Many men had been deprived of their vote by their unavoidable absence from home on election day. This was especially true of the traveling men and others called away from home. Upon the advice of Governor Hanna the Legislature of 1915 passed an absent-voters'

law under which the voter who knew he was to be absent from the county on election day could secure a ballot from the county auditor and vote and seal it in the presence of a notary public or the county auditor and have it sent to his polling place to be counted. The law, however, does not provide for voters who are away from home but not out of the county.

The demands of the farmer for a fair deal in the marketing of produce, and of the laborer for fair wages have led to many changes in the laws and the political theory of North Dakota. Just before America went into the World War a new organization was effected among the farmers and the laboring men which brought in the "day" of the Non-Partisan League. The work of this League is described in Chapter XXXIII.

#### SUGGESTED TOPICS

1. What is a "silver service"? How did the *North Dakota* obtain its silver service?
2. Why should the people of North Dakota be interested in the great men of Norway?
3. How did the method of securing a homestead on Indian reservations differ from the method of homesteading in the early days of North Dakota?
4. Look up some information about the pottery clays of North Dakota.
5. What is the importance of North Dakota's lignite possibilities?
6. What part has each house of the Legislature in impeachment cases?

**References.**—*Public Documents of North Dakota*; *North Dakota Blue Book*; North Dakota Geological Survey Reports.



## CHAPTER XXXI

### ON THE MEXICAN BORDER

THE relations of the United States with the Republic of Mexico were strained for many years. The changes of government in Mexico have not been accomplished by methods that meet the ideals of true democracy. Trouble between the Mexicans and the American people on the Rio Grande and the border had compelled the attention of the government at Washington for several years. President Wilson had adopted the policy of "watchful waiting" in the hope that the Mexican government would put its own house in order and keep the peace with its neighbors. In 1916 a raid of Mexican bandits upon the town of Columbus, New Mexico, in the presence of a guard of troops, exhausted the long-suffering patience of the American people. The tone of Mexican correspondence had been insolent, and at this new outrage the sentiment of the American public crystallized into a determination that such depredations must cease. A show of force was determined upon, and 60,000 men were sent to the border in one month. The soldiers kept pouring in until the number was raised to 150,000 men ready to defend the honor of their country. This show of force probably postponed a conflict. In fact, it looked like immediate war. General Funston, of Philippine record, held the decision for peace or war

in his hands for two hours along the line from Yuma to Brownsville. He was ready for immediate advance and was only awaiting a message from Washington before invading Mexico with the army. But the word never came. The plan was changed and real war with Mexico was averted.

Every state in the Union had its National Guard, which under the Dick Bill of 1908 was made a part of the United States Army. The Adjutants-General of most of the states offered their regiments for border service. The regiments began to drill immediately, using their armories for that purpose, and spending a short time in mobilization camps. Most of the regiments were not in good shape and their equipment was kept in the different states under the policy of the government.

The call to arms was issued to the North Dakota National Guard on June 18, 1916. Every organization reported for duty June 19, or within a little more than twenty-four hours after the call. The regiment had to recruit about 1000 men to be of war strength; the men had to be drilled in larger units, and equipment gathered. The Guard went into camp at Fort Lincoln on June 25 (the fortieth anniversary of the battle of the Little Bighorn) and devoted about four weeks to drilling and preparation for service. The regiment entrained July 22 for the Rio Grande, arrived at Mercedes, Texas, on July 26, and marched overland to the border. This march out to camp was through mud, cactus, brush, and grass. Not being able to reach camp before dark they were obliged to sleep out the first night, but they later



established a camp excellent in its general appearance and cleanliness.

Although the camp itself was excellent there were other conditions causing discomfort. The boys lacked clothing, especially shoes and underwear, adapted to that climate. Coming from the north they were clothed for the northern climate, but they found themselves placed out on mesquite and sagebrush plains in the hot climate of midsummer, under a broiling sun, and in the close air of that region. Climatic conditions seemed almost unbearable, but the boys did their duty with a minimum of complaint. Some help was afforded from the company funds to provide any real deficiency. The army rations issued were beans, fresh beef, potatoes, canned milk, coffee, flour, and sometimes fruit.

The newspapers had to have something to report, so stories came back to the home state of deprivation and hardships. At the solicitation of friends at home several people went down to the camp to inspect for themselves. These people found that the rations were standard and of good quality, that the boys were busy, in good health, and learning the arts of the soldier. They drilled, dug trenches, repaired roads, did patrol duty on the river bank, stood guard over the pumping stations and the homes of the people on the border. There were many proofs of the spirit and fibre of the men who were doing their best to make good.

The North Dakota men did not participate in the expedition sent to catch Villa, but they received a great deal of training that was beneficial in the World War. They had been home for only a few months when the

National Guard was called out for service which took them out into great world movements.

### SUGGESTED TOPICS

1. Determine just what the trouble was between Mexico and the United States.
2. How was the Mexican border experience good schooling for the World War?
3. Show how a body of troops could maintain a sanitary and good-appearing camp in a country of sand, sage brush, and hot sun.
4. Locate the towns mentioned in this chapter.
5. What is a policy of "watchful waiting"?
6. Why might the soldiers from North Dakota find it more uncomfortable in southern Texas than the soldiers from some other states?

**References.**—The newspapers and magazines from June to December, 1916, give us most that is in print about the North Dakota troops; records in the office of the Adjutant-General.



## CHAPTER XXXII

### A PART IN THE WORLD WAR

THE war in Europe came as a great surprise to the people of North Dakota. The news of August 1, 1914, told of the invasion of Belgium, and two days later England and Russia joined France against the Central Powers. Most of the people of the United States strongly disapproved of the violation of the neutrality of Belgium, yet the hostilities were so far away that the war seemed no special concern of this country. Only a few realized from the beginning that other nations were fighting the battles of the American people as well as their own.

The duplicity and treachery of German representatives in our own country were discovered. Many American boys were on the firing line in the service of France or England, some having joined the Canadian forces. It took a long time to get the people of North Dakota to see that the war was a matter for their concern, but the spirit of the people gradually changed, and when war came the state was ready and eager to do its part. On the declaration of war, the National Guard quickly prepared for the expected call.

Meanwhile, attempted and threatened seditious disturbances had called attention to the necessity for safeguarding public utilities and certain industries. Attempts

had been made in some parts of the country to blow up railroad bridges. As a precautionary measure the Secretary of War had on March 25, 1917, called into the federal service the Second Battalion of the North Dakota National Guard. Companies A of Bismarck, F of Fargo, H of Jamestown, and K of Valley City were mobilized at their home stations and guards were stationed at the Northern Pacific bridges at Bismarck and Fargo, the High Bridge at Valley City, the Great Northern bridge at Fargo, and the bridges and yards of the Northern Pacific at Jamestown. These guards were maintained until July 1, 1917, after which the battalion was mobilized at Fort Lincoln.

Through July and August the First North Dakota regiment was recruited to full war strength and went through strenuous training in preparation for service. On June 30, Governor Frazier authorized the organization of the Second Regiment of the North Dakota National Guard. So enthusiastically was this commission accepted by the people that in fourteen days the regiment was ready for inspection and to be mustered into service, with Ex-Governor Frank White as its Colonel and Adjutant-General Thomas H. Tharaldson as Lieutenant-Colonel. The regiment had forty-seven officers and 1262 men.

On July 3, the President called into federal service the organizations of the National Guard not already in service, and the other units of the First North Dakota were mobilized on July 15. The companies were held at their home stations to await orders from Washington.

Field Hospital No. 1 of Lisbon, consisting of six



officers and seventy men, was sent as the 109th Sanitary Train to Camp Cody, New Mexico, where it became a part of the 34th Division. The First Regiment, Colonel John H. Fraine commanding, with fifty-seven officers and 2057 men, was entrained on September 29 and arrived at Camp Greene, North Carolina, October 4. This regiment now became the 164th Infantry. The Second Regiment was sent to Camp Greene on October 1, where its identity was at once lost by assignment of its parts to other units, five companies becoming a part of the 164th Infantry. With the exception of the Field Hospital Company, both regiments were assigned to the 41st Division.

The 164th Infantry was in Camp Greene about six weeks; then it was moved to Camp Mills on Long Island and from there to Camp Merritt, New Jersey. On December 14 it embarked from New York on the *Leviathan*,



CAMP MILLS

the old *Vaterland* of the German line, transformed into the finest troop ship in the world. The soldiers, Red Cross nurses, and crew made a total of about 12,000 who crossed on this trip. They landed at Liverpool on Christmas eve and were in England just a week, when they embarked at Southampton and were landed at Le Havre, France, on January 1, 1918. The "Sunset" Division was selected upon its arrival in France as a replacement division. This meant the separation of the regiment, as the companies were assigned to different places, and many of the officers were used as drill instructors. A little later the regiment was united again at St. Aignan and with other units of the "Sunset" Division was organized as a combat unit. This division took an active part in the fighting at Toul, Cantigny, in the Argonne, and in the great operation at St. Mihiel.

The men of the Second Regiment were scattered quite widely, but they all managed to get into the thick of things. Many of them early saw service in ambulance and field hospital units at the front, and several of the companies were with the First Regiment as part of the new 164th Infantry. The First Division was one of the four that was sent into Germany after the armistice to maintain order until the treaty of peace was made. After the treaty, the regiments were returned to the United States at Camp Dodge, where they were discharged.

The men in the First and Second Regiments were not all who went from North Dakota. A great many of the young men volunteered before the registration day, June 5, 1917. Some of these enlisted in the Marines and in other army units that took them quite early into action.



At Château-Thierry when the tide was turned in the German march to Paris there were North Dakota men, and one at least gave his life in that campaign. The Selective Draft law was carried out by a District Board at Bismarck. This board was so well organized that it met every call from the War Department with its full quota of men. Before the work of the board was completed there was a total of 160,292 men registered and classified. North Dakota furnished to the army 18,595 as they were called for by the War Department. The total number of North Dakota men in active service in the World War is a figure not easily found, and there were a large number in civilian service who were not called to active duty.

The people at home who could not engage in actual service in the uniform of their country were doing their part. North Dakota was a part of the Northern Division of the Red Cross. In July, 1917, a chapter was organized in each county and the membership was increased from 10,000 to 200,000 besides 95,609 junior members. Up to June 30, 1918, the Red Cross had collected for war work the sum of \$1,768,811.79 in cash and supplies worth \$1,024,218.80. Eight men and seven women from North Dakota were in Red Cross service abroad, and 148 North Dakota nurses were assigned to overseas service or to the army cantonments. The North Dakota Red Cross met all calls from national and division headquarters. The North Dakota State Nurses Association had organized its Red Cross nursing service in 1912. In war time this organization had 189 in home and foreign service. Its service flag carries three gold stars and now hangs in the corridor of the State House.

The North Dakota Council of Defense was commissioned by Governor Frazier on April 25, 1917. This council, consisting of 38 men and three women, protected the rights and interests of service men while absent from the state, aided in the promotion of food production, and had charge of the enforcement of the Soldiers and Sailors Moratorium Act. The Women's Committee of the Council were asked to enroll 350 student nurses. They enlisted 378 young women from North Dakota for the United States Nurses Reserve.

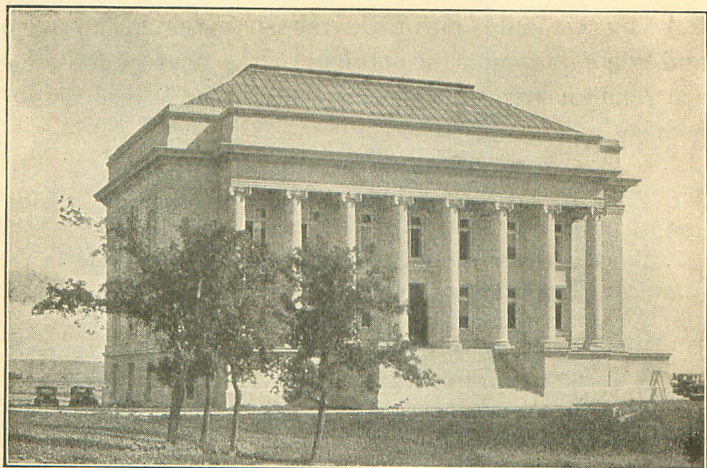
In contributions of money for the various services of war time the people of the state showed great generosity. In 1917 more than \$180,000 was contributed for Army Y. M. C. A. work. The Knights of Columbus contributed \$45,000 to the war camp fund and \$2,000 to the Red Cross. The Salvation Army raised nearly \$17,000, and the Jewish Relief made a generous contribution. The support of these activities was sought in a combined "drive" in the autumn of 1918. The United War Work Campaign was put on for the week of November 11-18 under Walter L. Stockwell, the director for North Dakota. The original quota was \$675,000, but the total amount obtained was about \$900,000. These were all contributions and do not include the purchase of Liberty Bonds and war stamps, which are investments. The five Liberty Loans went "over the top" at each call and the state's share of war stamps was readily taken.

There is no definite measure of the service rendered by the people who so generously gave their time in knitting and making garments and in preparing bandages



and supplies. The people all worked with great enthusiasm whenever the opportunity was given. Larger crops were raised, in spite of the fact that so many of the young men were away in service. In harvest time large numbers of the clerks in the cities went out to the farms as "shock troops" to help in the harvest fields after their hours in the stores and offices. On many farms the women and the girls helped; and all were willing to do their part in the winning of the war. To inform the people and to keep up the morale the organization of the "Four Minute Men" was formed, and thousands of government messages were given to the people by the men of this organization in the theaters, churches, and at other public gatherings. The Food Administration made a canvass for pledges to conserve food, and the people willingly coöperated. Boys and girls were organized and county club leaders were assigned to stimulate increased interest in producing and conserving food.

In an attempt to make some restitution for time lost and as an appreciation of services rendered, the Legislature of North Dakota passed a Soldiers' Bonus law giving the service men twenty-five dollars for each month in service. North Dakota was one of the first states to make this provision for the boys who had given their time to their country, and it was one of the most generous provisions made by any state. Although the money was not at once available the state has been paying off the claims as rapidly as the funds are raised. At first this money was to be used for only a few definite purposes, but a change in the plan leaves

*Finney's Daily Photo Service*

## THE LIBERTY MEMORIAL BUILDING

the disposition of the bonus largely in the hands of the service men. The organization of the American Legion throughout the state has afforded a means of coöperation for the service men and enables them to look after the interests of needy comrades.

As another mark of appreciation for those who answered the call of patriotism the Legislature authorized the erection of a Liberty Memorial Building on the capitol grounds. It is a fine structure of Bedford stone which will be an appropriate memorial to the North Dakota boys of the World War and will also be of great service to the state as a part of the new capitol building to be erected. This building will also contain a memorial to Theodore Roosevelt, North Dakota's great citizen. The bonus and the memorial



building are only outward symbols of the high esteem and honor in which the services of the boys of the state are held in the hearts of a grateful and appreciative people.

#### SUGGESTED TOPICS

1. What was the selective draft plan for recruiting soldiers in 1917-1918?

2. What other divisions besides the Sunset were there in the American Expeditionary Forces?

3. What is a division in the army?

4. What has become of the old First and Second Regiments of the North Dakota National Guard?

5. Look up the meaning of moratorium. How was the Moratorium Act helpful?

6. What is the work of the American Red Cross in times of peace?

7. Who are the Marines? How did they come to be at Château-Thierry?

8. Make a collection of accounts and stories of the World War which especially relate to North Dakota's part in it.

**References.**—*North Dakota Blue Book* for 1919.

## CHAPTER XXXIII

### THE NON-PARTISAN LEAGUE

IN the days of the Red River cart the trade of the newly settled territory naturally went to the large cities. From St. Paul the supplies for the army posts were sent out overland by wagon trains. When the railroads came, several towns in turn became important trading points because of their position at the end of the lines. Minneapolis and St. Paul became the logical trade and distributing points for Dakota, with Duluth sharing in the grain market. The advantage in the sale and handling of grain readily fell to these centers, and their markets in a large measure controlled the price and marketing conditions of grain.

Some means of relief was needed for a condition which was causing a low price for grain. The reason for such a condition was that too much grain was thrown on the market at threshing time because storage facilities were insufficient and because money was needed to pay the accounts of the grain grower. There was so much grain and the territory was so large that individuals could have little influence.

A few attempts were made in local areas, and finally the Society of Equity was organized for the purpose of bettering market conditions. As soon as the Society of Equity became strong enough to make



itself felt it became the target of attack on the part of the large buyers in the cities. Since this society was not able to do all that was desired the people saw that something must be done to help the farmers hold their grain until it could be marketed at more equitable prices. The plan of having one or more large terminal elevators was formulated. Such an undertaking would need stronger backing than any company or organization of farmers could command.

The sentiment in favor of having the state build and operate a terminal elevator grew. A constitutional amendment, authorizing and empowering the Legislative Assembly to purchase or lease one or more terminal elevators in Minnesota or Wisconsin, or in both states, and the operation of these under state regulation, was introduced in the Legislature of 1911. It was passed by this Legislature and by that of 1913, and was carried by a vote of the people with more than a two-thirds majority in the election of 1914.

However, the Legislative Assembly that met in 1915 was not in sympathy with the plan. The State Board of Control investigated the working of the provincial terminal elevators in Manitoba and reported that the plan there was not working to the best advantage, and recommended that no action be taken at that time. There were many farmers and people at the capital who were interested in grain-growing and were working to secure an elevator at once. It is said that one of these farmers was told by a prominent politician that he "better go home and slop the hogs." Whether these words were actually used may be a question, but the

report spread over the state and this expression became a war-cry for the advocates of state-controlled industries.

There were reports of a new alignment in political circles after the legislative session of 1915. An organization was perfected under the name of the Non-Partisan League (p. 191). Great energy and enthusiasm were put into the organization and building up of this movement. The plan was to have each farmer or member who joined pay a membership fee large enough to make him interested and to think his cause worth while. The fee at first was \$6.00, afterwards raised to \$9.00, then to \$16.00 and \$18.00, including subscriptions to two newspapers. A thorough organization was worked out. Under the state committee there was a committee in each county whose business it was to solicit new members and look after the welfare of the cause. Each precinct committee chose a delegate, usually one of its members, to serve on the county committee, and the county committees each chose a member for the state committee, so the state committee was made up of carefully picked delegates who had proved their loyalty. The leaders were justified in their claim that they had a "water-tight system" and a loyal machine. To remind the members of their pledge and duty a campaign button bearing the words, "We'll stick, we'll win" was worn by many. By 1916 the League had 30,000 members and a good campaign fund.

An interesting diversion from the partisan quarrels of 1915 and 1916 was afforded by the attempt of the people of New Rockford to remove the capital from Bismarck to that city. A strong appeal was made to the voters of



the state for the removal. The following reasons were set forth: New Rockford was more nearly in the center of population than Bismarck, the Capitol building at Bismarck was old and only a makeshift, and the valuable public records were in constant danger from fire. An organization of New Rockford citizens, known as the Capital Removal Association, was formed and an expert in advertising was secured from Chicago to manage a campaign of education to convince the people that New Rockford had advantages that could not be overlooked. This association sent out great quantities of literature and a large number of personal canvassers. The slogan adopted, "Let the People Vote on it,—That's Fair," made a strong appeal and petitions asking that the question of removal be brought to a vote of the people received a great many signatures. However, these petitions did not reach the Secretary of State in the prescribed time and form to get the question on the official ballot so the matter was never brought to a vote. After the campaign New Rockford was much better known, but Bismarck remained the capital city.

In the election of 1916, candidates endorsed by the Non-Partisan League were placed in the field for state offices and in some places candidates for county offices were included. There was no separate name for their party and the great majority of the League voted as Republicans, with the result that their candidates received the nomination at the primary election in June with the one exception of the State Treasurer. The League candidate for this office was on the Democratic ticket. In the November election the League nominees

for the state officers were elected, with the exception of the Treasurer. The League elected a majority of the members of the House of Representatives, but the Senate was still under the control of the other element of the Republican party. The House passed measures in accordance with the platform of the League but these were defeated in the Senate, so none of the special measures were passed at this session.

Through the summer of 1917 public interest was turned to the prosecution of the war and the numerous activities that were carried on by the people of the state to aid the government. All political parties felt that the next election was to be a trial of strength between the League and those who were not in favor of its program.

In the primary election in June the members of the League went into the election as Republicans and nominated all their candidates. In the November election of 1918, the state officers nominated by the League were elected by substantial majorities with the exception of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction. For this office the League candidate lost by more than five thousand votes. In this election ten amendments to the state constitution were ratified by popular vote. Among these amendments was one authorizing the initiative and referendum of laws, and one relating to the amendment of the constitution by initiative. One amendment provided that in a decision of the Supreme Court which declared a law unconstitutional, there must be concurrence of four of the justices to make it binding. Hail insurance by the



state was authorized by one of the amendments, and another gave permission for the state or subdivisions to aid or coöperate in business industries with certain limitations. These amendments made possible some undertakings upon the part of the state that were not permitted under the constitution before these were passed.

In the Legislative Assembly of 1919 the League had a majority in both houses, and laws were passed to carry out the program that had been determined upon in preceding years. Three special enterprises were provided for: a Bank of North Dakota, a state-owned and state-operated mill and elevator, and a Home Builders' Association. What might be considered minor enterprises were the State Hail Insurance, the Workmen's Compensation Bureau, state fire and tornado insurance, a state printing law, and several laws affecting labor and labor interests. A State Board of Administration was created and all the educational interests as well as the management of the state charitable and penal institutions were placed under the jurisdiction of this new board. To manage the three great enterprises, the bank, mill, and Home Builders' Association, an Industrial Commission consisting of the Governor, the Attorney-General, and the State Auditor was created and an appropriation made to carry out its work. Later, the Commissioner of Agriculture and Labor was substituted for the State Auditor.

The Bank of North Dakota was to have a capital of \$2,000,000 and was to be the official depository of all the state and public funds, including the funds of the

school districts and townships. It was empowered to make loans to the various departments of the government and to the state institutions and industries, to be the clearing house for all financial dealings of the state; and it naturally would be the head of the state banking system. State bonds were to be issued to secure the capital stock and the bank was to be opened as soon as the bonds were sold. The Industrial Commission did not wait for the sale of bonds, but opened the bank and received deposits from the State Treasurer and the treasurers of the different subdivisions of the state, so that a large fund was quickly accumulated. The bank was a necessary feature of the industrial program, as it provided a way to secure the finances needed for carrying out the plans of the commission.

These laws appeared dangerous to the people of the opposition and a referendum was taken. The voters of the state were thus called upon to approve or reject the law establishing the Industrial Commission, the law authorizing the opening and operation of the Bank of North Dakota, and the law creating the State Board of Administration. A referendum was also taken on the law relating to a Commissioner of Immigration, the law making the Tax Commission consist of one man, the law on the State Printing and Publication Commission, and the one which redivided the state into fewer judicial districts. The special election for the purpose of voting upon these laws was held on June 26, 1919. All the measures received an affirmative majority, that relating to the Bank of North Dakota carrying by a majority of 13,000, and the Industrial Commission by about



11,000. The other measures did not receive quite so large a majority. With this indorsement from the voters of the state, the Industrial Commission proceeded to open the Bank of North Dakota for the transaction of business.

When the vote of the people in the election of June 26 went in favor of the state-owned industries, the minority were not satisfied and instituted a suit in the courts of the state to restrain the state officers from undertaking the program. The "Forty-two Taxpayers Suit," as it was called, was decided in favor of the Industrial Commission, and the suit was taken to the Federal Courts as an abridgment of the rights of the people under the Fourteenth Amendment to the Federal Constitution. In the Federal Court of the district the decision was again in favor of the Industrial Commission. Then on appeal to the Supreme Court of the United States, the decision of the lower, or district, court was affirmed. This decision rested upon the theory that the voters of a state had the right, so long as they conformed to their laws and state constitution, to determine what activities should be carried on by their state government.

Under the plan for a state mill and elevator, the state purchased a seventy-five-barrel-a-day mill at Drake. This mill lost money in its operation, but the loss was explained by its supporters on the ground that it was experimental and had not tried to make a profit, and as an experiment it had paid the farmers a better price for their grain. Also, the price of wheat dropped rapidly and suddenly in the fall of 1920, so that considerable

loss was sustained by the drop in value of the grain on hand. The mill has been continued as a state-operated plant, and has been used as a basis upon which to figure the possibilities of the larger mill erected at a later time.

The Home Builders law provided that any citizen could deposit funds with the state from which to build a house. The state would pay him interest at six per cent upon these deposits, and when he had accumulated \$1,000 he could get help in purchasing a site and adopting plans. Then the state would advance \$4,000 in addition to the \$1,000 furnished by the man who wanted to build the house. The home-builder was given twenty years in which to repay the state, the payments for this purpose being made in equal monthly installments. After the first payment of \$1,000 the monthly payments on a five thousand dollar house would be \$28.65, making the payments cheaper than rent in most cities and towns. This law was intended to help farmers build better homes. The Home Builders' Association was organized and about fifty houses were undertaken on this plan. Most of these houses are in cities. After the Recall Election of 1921 further operations of the association ceased, and the new Industrial Commission has attempted to close up the accounts on the houses already built or under construction.

A special session of the Legislative Assembly was called for November 25, 1919. This session lasted until December 11, 1919. It passed several amendments to the laws affecting the Industrial Commission and made several readjustments in the appropriations and state



levies. Some new laws were passed. Three of the state officers elected as League candidates had found themselves out of sympathy with the League's way of conducting the business of the state, and had severed their affiliations with that organization. At this special session some duties that had fallen to the State Auditor were transferred to the Commissioner of Agriculture and Labor, and the Attorney-General was shorn of some of his power by reducing the number of his assistants.

In the autumn of 1919 a law was initiated to restore the powers of the State Superintendent. These powers had been transferred to the State Board of Administration in a law which had placed many duties connected with education in the hands of the new board. This law was passed by a good majority, and the certification of teachers and the oversight of the public school system was given to the State Superintendent.

#### SUGGESTED TOPICS

1. What is the purpose of political parties?
2. Under what circumstances can a case at law be taken to the federal courts?
3. What is a terminal elevator?
4. Why should the people of North Dakota be especially interested in a mill and elevator rather than in other factories and warehouses?
5. Under what circumstances may a special election be called?
6. Make a study of the process by which a law may be initiated.

**References.**—Reports of the Industrial Commission; Journals of the Senate and House of Representatives of the Fifteenth, Sixteenth, Seventeenth, and Eighteenth Legislative Assemblies; campaign documents of the parties.

## CHAPTER XXXIV

### IN THE DAYS OF RECONSTRUCTION

It was glad news for the people of North Dakota when the report of the signing of the Armistice came over the wires. Recruiting by the selective draft had furnished an increasing number of young men for service overseas and all agencies for supporting most efficient warfare were giving the highest service, but every one rejoiced that the war was over. After months of anxiety and strenuous war activities they were glad to turn their attention to the way of peace, but they were to find it a long road back to "normalcy."

The high prices and the great demand for food supplies had brought a wave of prosperity. Wheat was a good crop through the war years and the government price was high; and even after the government price was removed the price of wheat still remained high for a time, with prospects of rising still higher. Money seemed plentiful and an era of reckless buying had plunged many into debt. In spite of expectations, the price of wheat suddenly dropped, and the farmers lost thousands of dollars by holding for high prices that never came. A nation-wide deflation occurred suddenly in 1920 and the general depression brought hard times to the farmers. The bankers were caught with heavy loans which could not readily be liquidated and many state banks closed



their doors. In several of these state banks there were deposits of state funds from the Bank of North Dakota. Long-time loans, frequently in large amounts, had been made on real estate. In the general depression little could be paid, the state bonds were still unsold, and the state found itself in the possession of "frozen securities"<sup>1</sup> mounting into the millions. With ready cash not available a new type of negotiable paper—the registered check—came into use. The appearance of the registered check was interpreted as inability to pay, and the credit of the state suffered in banking circles where this condition was heralded.

The campaign of 1920 was a strenuous one. The opposition had crystallized and united in the Independent Voters' Association. Old party lines were forgotten or overlooked in state politics, although the party designations had to be used to conform to the election laws. The state committee of both parties asked the national campaign managers not to send the national speakers into North Dakota (unless called for by special request) but to leave the voters of the state alone to fight out their own battle.

A fusion ticket was nominated in the June primaries pledged to a change of policy in the state government. After a hard-fought campaign the League elected a majority of candidates on the state ticket, but the Independents won the House of Representatives in the 1921 Legislative Assembly by a majority of three. The League controlled the Senate by one vote.

<sup>1</sup>"Frozen securities" was a name given to long-time loans upon which nothing could be realized for many years.

However, it was still apparent that the majority of the people wished to try further the plan of state-owned industries, as the voters rejected initiated laws which would limit very much the powers of the Bank of North Dakota and other enterprises under the Industrial Commission.

In this election of 1920, Dr. E. F. Ladd, the League candidate, was elected to the United States Senate to succeed Senator Gronna. Congressman Helgeson of the First District died in 1917, and John M. Baer was elected by the League to fill out the term, and was re-elected in 1918. J. H. Sinclair, a League candidate from the Third District, had succeeded Congressman Norton in 1919. In the election of 1920, O. B. Burtness, an Independent, was elected in the First District. Congressmen Burtness, Young, and Sinclair were re-elected in 1922.

In the presidential preference election on March 16, 1920, four amendments to the state constitution were approved, and in the November election of that year three more were approved by the voters. In the June election of 1922, the fortieth amendment was passed. It allowed the citizen who changed his residence within the state to vote in his former precinct until he had gained voting residence in his new location.

The Bank of North Dakota was carrying the state bonds, which at a later date were put on the market and a block of them sold to a firm in Toledo, Ohio. Arrangements were made for marketing a large amount of the remaining bonds when the dissatisfaction with the policy and practices of the state government became so



strong that in 1921 the opposition launched a recall against the members of the Industrial Commission. A convention of the Independent Voters' Association was called and a ticket for the recall was put into the field with R. A. Nestos of Minot for Governor, Sweinburne Johnson of Grand Forks for Attorney-General, and Joseph A. Kitchin of Sentinel Butte for Commissioner of Agriculture and Labor. A spirited campaign was waged with both sides doing their best to get the vote of the people. The election was held on October 28, and resulted in the recall of the three state officials who at that time made up the Industrial Commission. The new administration was sworn into office on November 23, 1921.

In keeping with their campaign promises the newly elected Industrial Commission investigated the industries turned over to them. As they were not satisfied with the bond sale contract, they canceled it and made a sale on better terms. Also, in accord with the expression of the voters in the Recall Election, the commission went on with the construction of the State Mill and Elevator which had been located and begun at Grand Forks. These structures were opened with fitting ceremonies in October, 1922.

In the election of 1922, the Independent Voters' Association appealed to the people on the record that they had made while in control of the state. They captured a majority of the state offices and elected a small majority of their candidates to both houses of the Legislative Assembly, but the League elected former Governor Frazier to the United States Senate to succeed Mr. McCumber.

The price of farm products was low in 1922, and consequently hard times were keenly felt. The Legislature of 1923 was disposed to keep down state expenses and the state budget had to be trimmed to the lowest possible amount. This session passed one more election act in the series of laws to encourage independence of the individual voter. This act provided for the "Single Column Ballot" on which party designations at the head of the ticket and the "straight ticket" were dispensed with, thus making the voter select his candidate for each office rather than vote for a group belonging to a definite party. But this law was referred to the people and was rejected by the voters in March, 1924.

A matter of state-wide interest was the death of a North Dakota boy in a Florida convict labor camp. The boy had been arrested for stealing a ride on a train, convicted, and sentenced to imprisonment. The prisoners were leased to companies who used them as laborers. This boy was whipped by the "whipping boss," and a few days later he died. His death was reported as having been caused by pneumonia. But a fellow workman who had been released from the camp remembered the name of the town from which the North Dakota boy came. From Nebraska there came a letter to the family of the boy giving more of the real story of the boy's treatment and death. The family took the letter to the state's attorney of Cavalier County, who went to Florida to investigate. He told the story he learned there to some members of the Legislative Assembly, and in the session of 1923, the Senate, backed by the Governor, sent a message to the Legislature of Florida asking

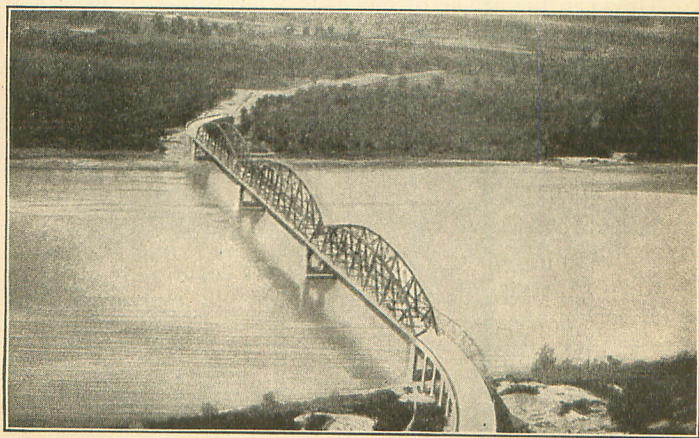
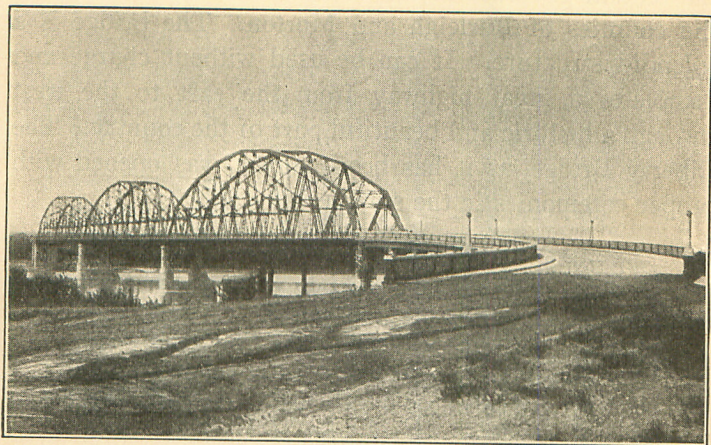


an investigation. Although disposed at first to resent this request, the Florida Legislature took up the investigation. Some Florida county officials were removed, and the whipping boss was found guilty of murder and sentenced to twenty years in the penitentiary.

A Children's Code Commission had been appointed by the Governor following action by the Legislature of 1921. This commission, consisting of seven members, drew up a set of measures for the purpose of better safeguarding the welfare of children. The recommendations were incorporated in a law enacted by the Legislature of 1923.

The women of North Dakota, through the Women's Christian Temperance Union, the State Federation of Women's Clubs, and other organizations for the betterment of humanity, have always had a strong influence in the passage and enforcement of wholesome laws, and have exerted a powerful influence towards high moral standards. In the Legislature of 1923 there were two women in the House, giving women for the first time a direct part in law-making for the state. Women have voted on school matters since statehood, and have had the full ballot since the Nineteenth Amendment. The last vestige of inequality of voting citizens was cleared away by the law, passed by the 1923 Legislative Assembly, which abolished the separate ballot box for women's votes.

An achievement of considerable magnitude and of great help to the traveling public was the building of a traffic bridge across the Missouri River to connect Bismarck and Mandan. This was undertaken jointly by



*Finney's Daily Photo Service*

THE NEW LIBERTY BRIDGE OVER THE MISSOURI



the federal government, the state of North Dakota, and the counties of Burleigh and Morton. The bridge is a splendid structure. It can be used without charge and completes a great highway from the east to the west through a historic and beautiful part of the country. The Liberty Bridge, as it has been named, was opened with proper ceremonies in the summer of 1922.

#### SUGGESTED TOPICS

1. In what Congressional district do you live? In what Senatorial district (for the state legislature)?
2. Find what material you can on the Children's Code.
3. Why should the state be interested in building bridges?
4. On what grounds does the United States government contribute to the building of these large bridges?
5. What is a "straight ticket"? A "primary ballot"?
6. How can the people of one state influence the judicial and political action of the people in another state?

**References.**—Reports of the Industrial Commission; Report of the Children's Code Commission; *North Dakota Blue Book* for 1919.

## CHAPTER XXXV

### EDUCATION IN NORTH DAKOTA

THE people of North Dakota have always shown an active interest in schools and education. Before the territory was organized a log schoolhouse was erected at Bon Homme and the first public school in the territory was taught there in the summer of 1860. The first public school in what is now North Dakota was probably at the Pembina settlement, although no public school building was erected there until 1876. There was a school in early days at Fargo, and a school was taught at Richville, now Wahpeton, in 1872, by Miss Keating in the claim shack of one of the homesteaders.

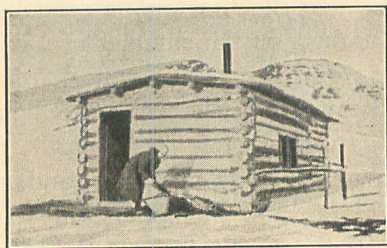
The territorial laws provided for schools and county superintendents. No well organized public school system had been worked out in these early days, and a neighborhood wishing to organize a district with full powers had to have a special act passed by the Legislature. The territorial Legislature of 1885 passed several such acts, and two independent school districts created at that time are still in active existence under the old territorial special acts. The city of Fargo was made an independent school district with a board of nine members. Hankinson is an independent school district with three directors on its board, and with several sections of the open country in the district. Each of these



districts has a code of school laws applying only in that individual district.

Later a general law was passed which authorized the formation of school districts in any neighborhood. This "district system" was adopted in the counties of Pembina, Walsh, Grand Forks, Cass, and Barnes. A later law provided for the township district, the plan generally followed in the other counties of the state.

As usually occurs in a pioneer state, school privileges were scant, the terms short, and the teachers poorly pre-



OLD LOG SCHOOLHOUSE OF  
WESTERN NORTH DAKOTA

pared. Fortunately for some communities, there could occasionally be found some experienced teacher from the older parts of the country, probably the wife of a homesteader or perhaps herself a homesteader, who was willing to teach a school. Frequently a room in an already crowded claim shanty would be secured for the schoolroom. One advantage in such a location was that the school children were in close touch with some family in case of blizzard, prairie fire, or other danger incident to the frontier. The early schoolhouses were sometimes built of sod. Where timber was easily

available a log schoolhouse might be built. In recent years a schoolhouse was built of the petrified wood found so abundantly in the region. A schoolhouse built of agate is rather unusual, but this material made a building of unique beauty.

School architecture and school practices followed the lead of the older states, but in one particular North Dakota pioneered—in the early use of a course of study for the common schools. John Ogden, one of the State Superintendents in the early days of statehood, prepared such a course. This was further outlined and improved by J. G. Halland, and went through two or three revisions in the administrations of W. L. Stockwell and E. J. Taylor. In 1917 the old course was laid aside and a brief outline made up under N. C. Macdonald was used for two years. Later Miss Minnie J. Nielson went back to a course nearly like the old one, and in 1921 a course covering most of the common branches was secured from the press of Warwick & York of Baltimore, Maryland. New courses adapted to the needs of North Dakota were written for Agriculture, Civics, Physiology, and History. The use of a course of study has helped materially in making the work standard and of uniform high quality throughout the state.

When the state was admitted to the Union it was given a large land grant for common schools, as well as for other institutions. Older states had sold their school lands at low prices, realizing only a fraction of the funds that should have been obtained. Colonel W. H. H. Beadle was Superintendent of Public Instruction in Dakota Territory when the Enabling Act was passed.



With rare foresight he secured the provision that these lands should not be sold for less than \$10 per acre. This secured an endowment for the common schools of the state which will exceed \$50,000,000.

As in many of the older states the county superintendent was quite supreme in his own county. In early days he held examinations of candidates for certificates to teach, using his own questions, marking the papers, and issuing the certificates. To make the practice and qualifications more nearly uniform, a law passed early in the state of North Dakota placed the making of the questions for all the counties in the hands of the State Superintendent. The next step, about 1901, required the reading and grading of the papers submitted by the candidates to be done under the direction of the State Superintendent. This made the system uniform, but each certificate was issued for a definite county. To be valid in another county the certificate had to be officially transferred and a fee of one dollar paid to the new county in which the certificate was to be used. To meet the extra expense of having the papers read by special readers appointed by the State Superintendent, the fee for examination was raised to two dollars, one dollar of which was retained in the county and the other sent to the state department. By the law of 1911 the certificates were made state certificates good in any county in the state when recorded in the office of the county superintendent.

For years there were three grades of county certificates, but in 1907 the third grade was dropped, and it has never been restored. It has been charged that the former second grade has been dropped to the place and standing

of the old third grade, but with the raising of standards the second grade has in recent years held its own place.

By the law of 1911 high school graduates who have had certain professional studies are entitled to the elementary certificate without examination. A few years before this a ten and one-half months' course for elementary certificates was authorized for the normal schools, and students completing this course were given the elementary certificates without examination. Since 1915 normal school students have been required to complete a course equivalent to the four-year high school course in order to receive the elementary certificates.

Teacher training both as a preparation and for improvement while in service has received merited attention. A Teachers' Reading Circle was organized in the first years of statehood and has been continued ever since. The credit earned by reading circle books has been applicable towards the renewals of elementary certificates. Summer schools at the normals were organized early and the other institutions have followed the example. In 1920 two of the normal schools held summer sessions of twelve weeks. Since 1921 all the normal schools have held twelve weeks' summer sessions, in this way offering four quarters of school in the year. Summer school attendance has greatly increased, in many schools exceeding the attendance of any other term and in some cases the total of the three other terms.

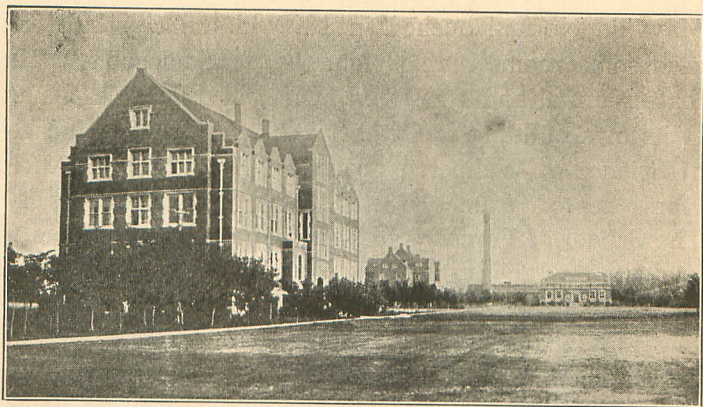
Compulsory attendance at the common schools has been required by law for many years, showing that the state is attempting to secure the benefits of education for



all its citizens. The enforcement of this law has been placed in the hands of the state's attorney, who gets his information through the county superintendent. A system of night schools is authorized by law, and several towns are doing splendid work in bringing education within the reach of many who cannot attend the day sessions.

To encourage better schools state aid has been given. At first this applied to high school and carried an appropriation of \$4,000. The first aid was granted by the law of 1895, and the amount has been increased in later years. With state aid goes state inspection. A State High School Board was created consisting of the Governor, the President of the State University, and the State Superintendent. The inspection of high schools was at first made by the State Superintendent and the President of the University, but in 1907, a high school inspector was provided for and Richard Hayward was the first one appointed to fill the office. By a law passed in 1911 a rural school inspector was authorized, and Mr. N. C. Macdonald became the first inspector of rural schools. With the increasing number of schools it was found necessary to have more inspectors, and since 1919 there have been three of these officers. Under the stimulus of state aid and inspection the schools have improved, the completion of the eighth grade has become more common, and the high schools of North Dakota now rank with the best in the United States.

To encourage the trained and experienced teachers to remain in the profession a Teachers' Insurance and Retirement Fund was created in 1913. Membership was



WOODWORTH HALL, UNIVERSITY OF NORTH DAKOTA

made elective for a certain time, and the opportunity to join was given those teaching in the state when the law was passed and again in 1917. In 1919 the benefits of the fund were extended to those teaching in the higher state institutions of learning. The retirement pension is graded upon the salary received for the last five of the twenty-five years of teaching, with a minimum of three hundred and fifty dollars and a maximum of seven hundred and fifty dollars.

Higher learning has received due attention. The university at Grand Forks was founded by legislative action in 1883, and it opened in 1884 with seventy-nine students. The Agricultural College was founded in 1889, and was organized for work on October 15, 1890, with thirty students, using a room rented from Fargo College. The Valley City Normal School opened October 13, 1890, in a room rented in the public school building, its funds for opening having been provided by subscription. The



Mayville Normal opened in 1890 in the city hall and used some rooms rented from the public schools. The State Normal and Industrial School at Ellendale opened in its own building in October, 1899. The State School of Science at Wahpeton opened in September, 1903, in rooms rented from the Red River Valley University. The School of Forestry at Bottineau opened its doors to students on January 2, 1907. The State Normal School at Minot opened in 1913 in the Armory, and the Dickinson Normal opened in 1918 in the Elks' Hall. All of these schools now have fine buildings of their own. They have offered the benefits of higher education to the young people of North Dakota, and have contributed much to the educational and social progress of the state.

Several private schools were undertaken, but of the higher institutions established by private enterprise, only Jamestown College and Wesley College have survived. Fargo College had a long and useful career, but in the depression of 1922 it had to close its doors.

The Teachers College movement, which first appeared in North Dakota in 1920, became stronger in 1924. In 1921 the Normal School at Valley City was given permission to extend its courses to four years above high school and grant the degree of Bachelor of Arts in Education. The secondary subjects and classes were gradually eliminated, so that by 1924 all work done in this school was of collegiate grade. In 1924 the same privilege was extended to the Normal Schools at Minot and Mayville. The state school at Ellendale, founded as a manual training school and developing in later years into a training school for teachers as well, was considered

somewhat different in its scope and purposes and the Legislative Assembly of 1925 passed a law authorizing this school to extend its courses and grant the degree of Bachelor of Science in Industrial Education. The State School of Science at Wahpeton has become definitely a trade school.

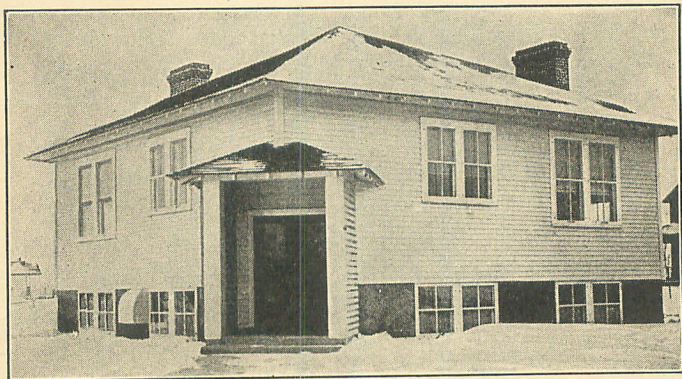
As each legislative session passed new school laws, it became difficult to know just what the laws were, so the Legislature of 1909 provided for a School Law Compilation Commission. This commission consisted of the Deputy State Superintendent and the Attorney-General, *ex officio*, and three members to be appointed by the Governor. Dean Joseph Kennedy of the University, Dean A. D. Weeks of the Agricultural College, and R. M. Black of the State School of Science were appointed. A year and a half later, the commission reported to the Legislature of 1911 a new school code, which was adopted substantially as submitted.

One of the features of the new code was a Board of Examiners to take charge of all certificate matters. This board established the procedure and made such rules as the law authorized, and quite thoroughly clarified the whole certificating system. The Board of Examiners was succeeded in 1913 by a State Board of Education, and later the new State Board of Administration was given many of the powers of the former State Board of Education. By the initiated law of 1919 these powers with some others were restored to the hands of the State Superintendent.

The Legislature of 1921 passed a measure known as the Minimum Wage Law for teachers. A scale of wages



was fixed establishing a minimum salary for the different grades of certificates and taking into consideration the experience of the teacher. An increase of fifty dollars a year was required for every year of experience for the first five years. This law was referred to the voters in



A MODERN TYPE OF SCHOOL BUILDING

the special election of June, 1921, and was voted down by a good majority. Another provision contained in this same law was that after August 31, 1923, every one entering the teaching profession must be at least the graduate of a standard four-year high school or have equivalent training. This part of the law was defeated with the minimum wage feature.

In recruiting the army for the World War the United States government discovered an astonishing amount of illiteracy on the part of the people. While North Dakota ranked high in its percentage of people who could read and write, yet there were too many adult illiterates for so progressive a state. The State Department of

Education adopted a definite program for wiping out illiteracy. A law was passed giving state aid to communities which would undertake to teach its illiterates. Night schools were established in many places; the teachers of the public schools and others who were willing to help were enlisted for the campaign. Under the slogans, "No illiteracy in North Dakota in 1924," and "Each one teach one," an effort was made to reach every citizen who could not read and write. This campaign was very successful and illiteracy has been greatly reduced.

Higher qualifications for teachers, an improved type of rural school, more consolidated schools where practical, and equal opportunity for all to secure an education are other ideals in the educational program of the State Department of Education.

#### SUGGESTED TOPICS

1. What is the difference between the district system and the township system of school districts?
2. Make a study of the purpose and plans of the Pupils' Reading Circle.
3. What studies are now required in the public schools of the state?
4. What is meant by endowment for schools?
5. Why should there be a compulsory attendance law?
6. What are the advantages of night schools? What is usually taught in such schools?
7. What other state institutions are there besides those mentioned in the text?

**References.**—Reports of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction; reports of the State Board of Administration; pamphlets issued by the State Department of Education; *School Laws of North Dakota*; bulletins of the several institutions.



## CHAPTER XXXVI

### PARKS AND PLAYGROUNDS IN NORTH DAKOTA

IN addition to the beauty spots and playgrounds along the rivers and in the hills of North Dakota, the state has one national park and several state parks. The Bad Lands are a park region in themselves and have attracted the attention of the travelers of the world.

Sully Hill National Park, established in 1904, is an eight hundred acre tract of land set aside by the government in commemoration of General Sully's campaigns in the state and his expedition to Sully Hill in 1865 (p. 94). It is located a short distance from the city of Devils Lake on the Sunshine Highway and near Fort Totten. It is south of the lake and in the old Indian Reservation. The park contains a wild animal preserve where elk, buffaloes, deer, and antelopes may be seen under natural conditions. It also has a picnic ground where several thousand people find a good outing place every year.

The Walhalla State Park is located upon the Pembina River near the spot where Norman W. Kittson located his trading post in 1844. It is a memorial of the old fur-trading days as well as one of the beauty spots of the state.

The Abercrombie State Park is on the banks of the Red River and contains a part of the military reserve upon which Fort Abercrombie was built in 1858. Old Fort Abercrombie was the first federal fort built in what is now North Dakota. This fort was the gateway into the

new Indian lands and served as a defense for the settlers who located in the Red River valley. It suffered severe attacks in the Sioux outbreak in 1862. For a few years it was a station on the mail and supply routes from the Twin Cities to the posts and settlements of the new territory.

The Fort Rice Park marks the site of old Fort Rice, which was built by General Sully (p. 89) in 1864 as a military base for his campaign against the Indians. It was the first fort to be built by the federal government on the Missouri River within the bounds of the present state, and for years it was an important post on that river.

The Fort Lincoln Park is located on the west bank of the Missouri about two miles south of the city of Mandan. The park includes a part of the old Fort Abraham Lincoln military reserve and it also includes the site of the old infantry post on the top of the high bluff, the greater part of the old cavalry post occupied by General Custer from 1874 to 1876, and the site of the old Indian village known as Slant Village.

The Pembina State Park is located at the junction of the Pembina River with the Red River. It includes the site of the oldest trading post in the state, built in 1797. This old trading post and its successors mark one of the most important places in the history of the fur trade in the Northwest. Across the Pembina River is the site of the old trading post and stockade built by Alexander Henry, in 1801, and a short distance away is the site of Fort Pembina, built by the federal government in 1863. For years this was the best known spot in the present state limits. The park was donated to the state by the city of Pembina.



The Cavalier County State Park is situated on O'Brien's Coulee and is the gift of Mr. J. B. Beauchamp of Olga. This park is located on the site of one of the battles fought between the Sioux and a combination of their enemies made up of buffalo hunters from Canada, French half-breeds, and a band of Chippewas. The battle took place in 1848, and the site was identified several years later by a Chippewa Indian who had rescued a wounded comrade left on the field.

The White Stone Hill battlefield (p. 88), located in northwestern Dickey County, was given to North Dakota by the federal government. The gift included a whole section; but upon permission from the government, the state sold nearly six hundred acres of the land. The money secured by this sale was used to beautify the remaining sixty-one acres and to erect a monument to the troopers of the Sixth Iowa and Second Nebraska Cavalry who were killed in the battle there, September 3, 1863.

The Mouse River Park is not a state park as its two hundred acres are owned and controlled by a corporation of citizens who have set it aside as a recreation center. This park is on the Mouse River in Renville County, sixteen miles from Mohall, the county seat. It is an ideal picnic and camping place and is freely used by the citizens of the surrounding country.

A movement was launched in 1917 to have the State of North Dakota purchase the Killdeer Mountains for a state park and game preserve, but the Legislature of 1917, instead of voting to purchase, appointed a commission to take up with the proper authorities of the United States government the question of making the

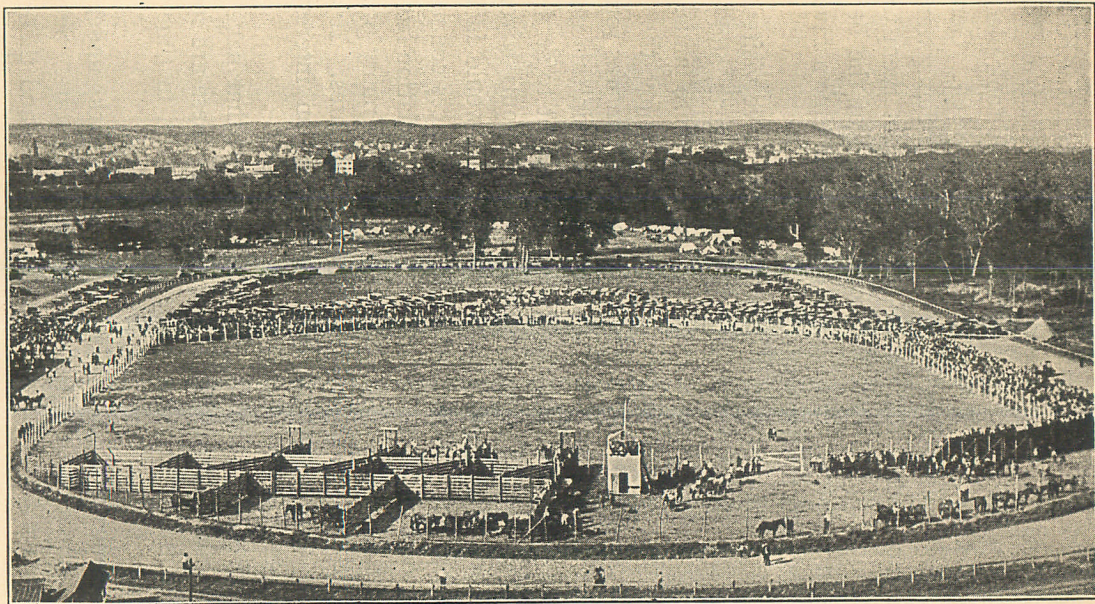
Killdeer Mountains a national park. It was in the Killdeer Mountains, in Dunn county, that the Indians of North Dakota made their last stand. The battle took place at what is known as Dead Man's Gulch in 1864. General Sully had found that a large body of Indians were in these mountains and Captain Sibley fought them there. The mountains themselves constitute one of the beauty spots in the state, and have been for some time a favorite camping and tourist spot.

Many of the people of North Dakota have visited the Bad Lands in their wildest and grandest parts, and have come to appreciate the rugged beauty of these lands. In order that other people might see and enjoy the Bad Lands as a place for recreation an association was formed in 1924 for the purpose of forming a park in this region and of asking the United States government to set aside a large tract of land along the Little Missouri River as the Roosevelt National Park. The park would include the old Elkhorn Ranch and many other places connected with Roosevelt's life in Dakota. This association has the support of the State Historical Society and many prominent citizens of North Dakota and other states. If such a park can be established it will make an interesting playground in one of nature's wonderlands.

There are a number of historic places that have not been made the property of the state. As these are found and identified they are given attention and in time will probably become the property of the state.

There are a large number of beautiful parks under the management of the cities and towns of the state. Several towns have beautiful chautauqua grounds, and there are





A ROUND-UP AT MANDAN

a great many picnic grounds. Almost every community has a shady grove or the natural timber along the streams as a place for recreation. The beautiful groves around the homes and the more stately forests on the "tree claims" of the early settlers afford beauty spots and rallying places for the community. Several counties have well improved grounds for the county fair and the "round up," and the old settlers' reunions find these grounds good recreation places. The golf links in this new country are becoming beauty spots as well as places for recreation. As appreciation of the beauty to be found on North Dakota's plains and prairies increases, the people are striving to conserve the heritage so generously provided by nature, and to make more of these places where rest and recreation may be found.

### SUGGESTED TOPICS

1. Name the parks or marked historical places in your county.
2. What are the advantages of setting aside places for parks and playgrounds?
3. Why is it imperative that these places should be permanently marked as soon as they are definitely located?
4. Are there Indian reservations still left in North Dakota? If so, where are they?
5. Are there any other parts of North Dakota, like forts or reserves, still owned by the United States government?
6. Locate the Bad Lands. To whom do they belong? Explain your answer.
7. Locate on the map all the places mentioned in this chapter.

**References.**—Collections of the Historical Society of North Dakota; *North Dakota Blue Book* for 1919; Willard, *Story of the Prairies*.



## CHAPTER XXXVII

### RECENT EVENTS

THERE were three state-wide elections in 1924. In March the people were permitted to express their preference of candidates for the Presidency. The Republicans had three great national characters before them: President Coolidge, Senator Hiram Johnson of California, and Senator Robert M. La Follette of Wisconsin. Each one of these had many supporters in the state and it was felt that the election would be close. Five presidential electors for the November election were to be nominated in the March primary, and each candidate had his group of five candidates. Delegates to the National Conventions were to be chosen at the same time. The Republicans elected thirteen delegates, the apportionment to this state for their party. The Democrats were given ten delegates for their convention and their choice for the presidency was William Gibbs McAdoo.

The official count showed that the Republicans who voted gave a plurality to Calvin Coolidge as North Dakota's candidate, but the candidates for presidential electors who received the most votes were those who were pledged to Senator La Follette. This situation of having for electors candidates who were not supporters of the choice for the presidency was straightened out by the resignation of the La Follette supporters and the substitution of candidates who were supporters of Coolidge.

On the organization of the third party by Senator La Follette electors pledged to his support were nominated.

The primary for the nomination of state and county officers was held in June. The Independent Voters' Association and the "Real Republicans" had attempted a union of their forces, but with three candidates on the Republican ticket, Governor Nestos was defeated by Mr. Arthur G. Sorlie of Grand Forks. Mr. Sorlie was elected Governor in the November election.

Congressman George M. Young of the Second District had been appointed associate judge of the Court of Customs Relations and resigned his seat in the House of Representatives early in the year. Governor Nestos called an election to fill the vacancy on the regular election day in November. Honorable Thomas Hall who had served as Secretary of State since 1912 was elected to fill the vacancy and to continue in the regular term beginning March 4, 1925. Mr. Hall took his place in the House of Representatives at the opening of the Second Session of the Sixty-eighth Congress in December, 1924.

The outcome of the November election was doubtful for a few days, because of the strength of the La Follette supporters, but the official returns showed that the Coolidge ticket had carried the state. The electoral college met at Bismarck on Monday, January 12, 1925, and cast five votes for Calvin Coolidge for President and five votes for Charles G. Dawes for Vice President. Mrs. A. M. Christianson was the elector chosen by the group to take the returns to Washington, and she presented them to the president of the Senate on Wednesday, February 11, 1925.



Senator Edwin Fremont Ladd died in the early summer of 1925. As Congress was not in session no immediate steps were taken to fill the vacancy. Not wanting to put the state to the expense of an election, Governor Sorlie called a special election to fill the vacancy on June 30, 1926, the date of the mid-summer primary election. As this would leave North Dakota only one Senator for the first session of the Sixty-ninth Congress, Governor Sorlie appointed Mr. Gerald P. Nye of Cooperstown to fill the vacancy until the special election. At first there was some doubt as to the authority of the Governor to appoint a Senator, but the Senate soon after the holiday recess voted to seat Mr. Nye. In November Mr. Nye was elected Senator for the full term beginning March 4, 1927.

In the Legislative Assembly of 1925 the state parties were nearly evenly divided, the Independents having a majority of one in the Senate, and the League having a small majority in the House. As neither side had complete control legislation was conservative, with the appropriations as a major interest. Two new bridges across the Missouri River were provided for, one at Sanish and one at Williston, and a third bridge over Des Lacs was voted.

The increasing taxes for road building and other local improvements were felt to be a burden. The Tax Payers Association, organized in the winter of 1924, had attempted to initiate a law to limit by a graded reduction; the law to be voted upon in the spring of 1924. This attempt failed from lack of the required number of signers on the petitions, but in the November election a measure to reduce the taxes for the support of certain enterprises

by a straight cut of twenty-five per cent was placed before the voters. It was felt that this cut would seriously cripple the schools, especially in the country and small towns, so a campaign under the direction of the North Dakota Education Association was waged against it. The measure was defeated but the large vote in favor of it was taken by the Budget Board and the members of the Legislative Assembly as a mandate to keep appropriations down to a minimum.

It was felt by many of the North Dakota people that the benefits to be secured in this state were not fully appreciated by people who were looking for new homes. To answer the needs of this situation the Greater North Dakota Association was formed in 1925. There had been an association of that name with headquarters at Valley City, but it was thought best to have a wider organization. The scope of its activities was therefore extended to include the work of the Automobile Association. The project of securing a National Park in the Bad Lands, to be known as the Roosevelt National Park, was also included in its program. An organization was formed in each of the fifty-three counties of the state, and a fund for carrying on its publicity was raised by popular subscription. The slogan, "A Million Inhabitants by 1930," expresses only a part of the aims of this association. Its purpose is to help the people to a better appreciation of their own state and to let other people who are looking for new homes know what this state has to offer with its fertile lands, its abundance of coal, its healthful climate, its public institutions, and its



sturdy and progressive people,— factors that will build a Greater North Dakota.

### SUGGESTED TOPICS

1. Look up the names of the Senators and Representatives elected in North Dakota since statehood.

2. Make a list of the present state officers of North Dakota. How many Governors have we had?

3. Who are your Senator and Representatives in the State Legislature?

4. Make a study of the plans for the Roosevelt National Park.

5. Make a list of the widely known people of North Dakota. Make a list of such people in your county.

**References.**—*North Dakota Blue Book* for 1919; *Who's Who in America* (for those living); Collections of the State Historical Society of North Dakota; Publications of the Commissioner of Immigration, Bismarck, North Dakota.

## APPENDIX A

### A CHRONOLOGY OF NORTH DAKOTA HISTORY

- 1738. Verendrye Expedition to the Dakota land.
- 1741. Second Verendrye Expedition.
- 1797. Pembina Trading Post established.
- 1800. Alexander Henry in the Dakota region.
- 1803. Louisiana Purchase.
- 1804. Lewis and Clark Expedition wintered in Mandan country.
- 1805. Henry made a voyage up the Missouri.  
Territory of Louisiana created.
- 1807. Manuel Lisa traveled up the Missouri.
- 1811. Selkirk Settlement at Pembina.  
Expeditions of Bradbury and Brackenridge.
- 1812. Territory of Missouri created.
- 1816. Miles McDonald Expedition.
- 1818. International Boundary fixed at Forty-ninth Parallel.
- 1823. Long and Keating at Pembina.  
Beltrami went down the Red River of the North.
- 1825. Atkinson and O'Fallon sent as Commissioners to make treaties.
- 1832. First Navigation of the Missouri as far as the Yellowstone.  
Catlin, the great painter, among the Indians.
- 1834. Territory of Michigan created.
- 1836. Territory of Wisconsin created.
- 1837. Great small pox epidemic among the Indians.
- 1838. Territory of Iowa created.
- 1848. Fred Girard of St. Louis went up the Missouri River.
- 1849. Professor Robert Owen, Geologist, in the Red River valley.  
Territory of Minnesota created.



- 1849. Captain Pope and Major Wood led an exploring expedition from Fort Snelling to Pembina.
- 1851. Charles Cavalier settled at Pembina.
- 1853. The Stevens Survey.
- 1854. Territory of Nebraska created; western Dakota given a government.
- 1857. Dalrymple Bonanza Farms founded by land purchase.
- 1858. Fort Abercrombie established.  
Minnesota admitted to statehood; part of Dakota left without government.
- 1859. First steamer on the Red River of the North.
- 1861. Territory of Dakota organized.
- 1862. First territorial Legislature, the "Pony Congress."
- 1863. Boundaries of Dakota Territory reduced by creating other territories from its western parts.  
Sibley's Expedition into the Indian country.  
Sully's Expedition and the Battle of White Stone Hill.
- 1864. Sully's Second Expedition and the Battle of Killdeer Mountains.
- 1867. Fort Ransom and Fort Totten established.
- 1868. Great Sioux Reservation created.
- 1870. Land Office established at Pembina.
- 1872. First railroad into the state at Fargo.
- 1873. City of Bismarck founded (as Edwinton).
- 1874. General Custer sent to Fort A. Lincoln.  
Custer Expedition to the Black Hills.
- 1876. Battle of the Little Bighorn.
- 1879. Northern Pacific railroad extended through Dakota.
- 1880. Great October blizzard.
- 1881. Sitting Bull returned from exile in Canada.
- 1883. The Capital of the territory removed from Yankton to Bismarck.
- 1884. University of North Dakota opened at Grand Forks.
- 1884 to 1886. Roosevelt in Dakota Territory.
- 1885. Last buffalo hunt in Dakota.  
Hospital for the Insane founded at Jamestown.
- 1887. Great Northern Railway built through to Montana.  
Fargo College founded.
- 1888. Great Temperance Conference at Grand Forks.

## CHRONOLOGY

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- 1889. North Dakota admitted to statehood.
- 1890. Messiah War.  
Valley City and Mayville Normal Schools organized.  
Agricultural College organized at Fargo.
- 1892. Red River Valley University opened at Wahpeton.
- 1893. Great fire in Fargo.  
Populist movement in North Dakota.
- 1895. Bumper crop in North Dakota.
- 1896. The Free Silver Campaign.
- 1897. Winter of the great blizzards.
- 1898. The Spanish War.
- 1899. State Normal and Industrial School opened at Ellendale.  
The present Fort Lincoln established at Bismarck.
- 1903. State School of Science opened at Wahpeton.
- 1904. North Dakota at the St. Louis Exposition.  
First year of the black rust.
- 1905. State Historical Society authorized by law.  
Wesley College located at Grand Forks.
- 1906. First direct primary. Great political upheaval.
- 1907. Society of Equity organized.  
School of Forestry opened at Bottineau.
- 1908. Government Indian School at Bismarck opened.
- 1909. The battleship *North Dakota* launched.  
Participation in the Exposition at Seattle.
- 1911. Better Farming Association organized.  
Impeachment of a District Judge.
- 1912. Visit of the European geographers to the Bad Lands.
- 1913. Minot Normal School opened.  
Grand Army Veterans participate in semi-centennial celebration of the Battle of Gettysburg.
- 1914. Statue of Lincoln presented to Norway.
- 1915. Third State Census. State Board of Regents created.  
Absent Voters' Law.
- 1916. Non-Partisan League's first participation in a state election.  
State Guard on the Mexican Border.
- 1917. World War.
- 1918. Great scourge of Spanish influenza.  
Dickinson Normal School opened.



- 1918. Special session of the Legislature.
- 1919. Referendum Election.  
Industrial Program inaugurated.  
Special session of the Legislature.
- 1920. Independent Voters' Association organized.  
Great depression in prices of agricultural products.
- 1921. Recall Election of three state officers.  
Normal schools given legal authority to grant degrees.
- 1922. Liberty Memorial Bridge between Bismarck and Mandan  
opened.  
State mill and elevator at Grand Forks opened for  
business.
- 1923. Children's Code adopted.  
The Tabert Case in Florida.
- 1924. Roosevelt National Park Association formed.
- 1925. Optimism restored by better crops in 1924.  
Several closed banks reopened.  
Greater North Dakota Association formed.
- 1926. Sugar beet industry introduced; Mexicans employed to  
raise beets.
- 1927. Two new bridges across the Missouri River, at Sanish  
and Williston.  
Call for special session of the Legislature.

## APPENDIX B

### SOME HELPFUL BOOKS

No attempt is made here to give a complete bibliography, but some books are named that will be found helpful. A number of these are quite within the reach of a small library.

For those interested in the geological formation and features of the eastern part of the state, Upham's *Glacial Lake Agassiz*, a government publication, will prove a mine of interest.

Willard's *Story of the Prairies* should be found in every school and public library. It covers the state in an interesting and scientific way.

Starr's *American Indians* contains much valuable information on the Indians in general.

The *Journal of Lewis and Clark* is the original document upon which many accounts of that expedition have been based.

The Collections of the State Historical Society of North Dakota contain much material on the Indians and Indian life, and they are indispensable to a good knowledge of the state history.

Custer's *Boots and Saddles* and Hanson's *Conquest of the Missouri* should be found in every school and public library.

Among the later books are: Crawford's *Badlands and Broncho Trails*, Gilmore's *Prairie Smoke*, Wemett's *Story of the Flickertail State*, Fiske's *Taming of the Sioux*, McLaughlin's *My Friend the Indian*, Mrs. McLaughlin's *Sioux Songs*, Bede's *Sitting Bull-Custer*, and Remington's *Pony Tracks*.

The *North Dakota Blue Book* for 1919 contains a wealth of information and statistics. Young's *Government of North Dakota and the Nation* is a good work on the state and local government of North Dakota.

There are a number of compendiums that will be interesting reading. Other books are given in the References at the ends of the chapters.



## APPENDIX C

### SUGGESTED OUTLINES FOR STUDY

The geography of the state, and its adaptation to be the home of white people.

The Indian tribes, their distribution, their customs.

The early explorers and fur traders, and the government expedition under Lewis and Clark, noting particularly the help given by the Indian guide, Sakakawea.

The great work of Manuel Lisa, and the expeditions up the Missouri.

The buffalo hunt as a great event in the lives of the Indians. Note that this hunt was for their meat supply. How pemmican was made, and why it was so important an article of food.

The Stevens Survey as the linking of the East and West, and why this was an important event.

The formation of the new territory and its first officers, its "Pony Congress," and the small part of the territory that was settled at that time.

The military expeditions to the Sioux Land to avenge the massacre and outbreak in Minnesota, an incident connected with the Civil War. Trace the routes of the expeditions and determine what was accomplished.

The coming of the railroads and the extension of the Northern Pacific across the state. This railroad construction caused the building of several forts. Note the location of these and other forts in the northern part of the territory.

The discovery of gold in the Black Hills and Custer's Expedition from Fort A. Lincoln. The Custer Battle on the Little Bighorn River, and its relation to the expedition to the Black Hills in the preceding year.

The traffic in and across the territory and its relation to conditions in the new Northwest.

The long fight for statehood and the Enabling Act. The

Constitutional Convention, and the organization of the new state government. The struggle to keep the name of the new state unsullied by the lottery and the liquor traffic.

The last chapter in Indian Warfare in the Northwest, closing with the removal of Sitting Bull and his band.

The part of North Dakota in the Spanish War.

The political history of the years of growth and expansion.

The activities of the state in the World War, with the Border Rally as an introduction and training for later military events, and the days of Reconstruction.

The Non-Partisan League and the trial of state-owned and state-operated industries.

The educational plans for the state. Parks and playgrounds. The statesmen of the new commonwealth, and the chronology of events in state history.



## APPENDIX D

### OUTLINES FOR ORIGINAL WORK ON LOCAL HISTORY

To those who wish to try writing up the history of a county, these suggestions are offered as topics to be considered:

The geography and natural features.

The activities of the Indians and early explorers within the county.

The coming of the pioneers, where they located, and the reasons for their choice.

The towns, why placed and why named as they were.

The coming of the railroads and their location.

The choice of the county seat and the reason for this choice.

The organization of townships and subdivisions.

The formation of schools and school districts, the consolidation of schools, if there are examples.

The biographies of prominent citizens of the past and the present time.

A map of the region before its settlement and organization and division into smaller or subordinate units. A map of the county as it is at the present time.

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Material for such histories may be obtained from interviews with the pioneers and old settlers, from newspaper accounts, the county records, the reports of the State Historical Society, and the reports and papers of the county's Old Settlers' Association. With some adjustments in outline the suggestions will also be helpful in writing up the history of the township, city, village, or school district.

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